

The Reef Dive Resort—Mataking Island



MATAKING ISLAND NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1, 2010

February 2010

Welcome from the Resort Manager!



Mr. Luke J COX

**Resort Manager and
PADI IDC Staff Instructor
at Mataking Island**

Welcome to this our first edition of the Mataking Newsletter for 2010.

If you haven't visited the resort for a while, when you arrive to the island you will notice that we have made some pretty dramatic changes in the last 12 months, all in effort to make your stay a truly memorable one at the island.

From a new grand reception area at the end of our main jetty to the

5 new luxury beach villas, no expense has been spared to offer you the very highest level of luxury and tranquility in Malaysia.

It has been a pretty exciting four months again as we have celebrated Christmas in traditional style, had an amazing party at New Years Eve, launched our new luxury accommodation, celebrated the Chinese Year of the Tiger in true "roaring style" and welcomed Scuba Kids Malaysia to our distant shores once again.

As we push on into 2010, this year we are now proud to announce that we are now a PADI 5 star resort, one of only a very select few in Malaysia. Our award winning team has worked very hard to earn this status, now offering our guests the highest of diving standards, more choice and greater flexibility in their diving.

There are so many great things

happening here right now and planned for the next twelve months, so dust off your dive gear and get out here to sunny Mataking to see just what we are all raving about.

I do hope that you enjoy this edition of the Mataking newsletter, and even more look forward to welcoming you to the island in 2010.

For any further information, please email me at

mataking.manager@live.co.uk



We welcome our new luxury passenger boat, "Lady Grace" to the TRDR fleet.

"Lady Grace" and "Lady Samantha" Join the Fleet

In November we officially launched our new catamaran, the luxury passenger vessel, "Lady Grace".

Powered with twin v8 150hp Yamaha engines, and designed for both speed and comfort, "Lady Grace" simply is the pride of the Celebes Sea.

Grace will now convey our cus-

tomers from Semporna to the resort in record time and in sheer luxury. Our captain of Grace, Marsan said, "She is a pure pleasure to drive and even greater pleasure to be carried in. I just love this boat!"

Just a few months later, as part of our extensive refit programme, dive boatman Lajik took the reigns of the newly refurbished,

"Lady Samantha". This is the first of many of our vessels to be refitted for the comfort and safety of our guests. This short-range vessel, powered with twin 100hp engines is ideal for reaching many of our local dive sites, including the shipwrecks and out to Timba-Timba.

Inside this issue:

A GLITTERING NIGHT OF STARS	2
PADI 5 STAR RESORT AT MATAKING	2
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS	2
A WHOLE NEW LEVEL OF LUXURY	3
CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE TIGER	3
KIDS SCUBA 2010	3
YOU SAID.... WE DID!	4

The Reef Dive Resort—Mataking Island



The Mataking Staff Team during the day time tea-building games with the Heritage Hotel from Tawau

A Glittering Night of Stars at the Staff Annual Dinner

On January 26th, the island celebrated the success of its most important people who make the island a success – the staff!

This year, the theme was “Sarong Nite”, with all staff, guests, VIP’s and our colleagues from the Heritage Hotel alike attending the event for team-building games and a great get-together in their finest Sarong for this annual gathering.

Opening the event, our Managing Director, Mr. David Sie said, “You are all the foundations of this great resort and I am very proud

of all of you for some great achievements in 2009. You have faced big challenges too and you have risen to every single one of them. Well done to all of you”.

Many awards were also given out this year. The Most Improved Department for 2009 went jointly to The Motor Launch Crew and The Semporna Office Team, whilst the Best Department for 2009 was awarded to the hard-working Landscape team on the island.

The Most Hardworking and Conscientious Staff award went to our

Assistant Security Head, Basri Junade, with the Best Staff Award going to our receptionist, Jennifer Cervantes.

The evening ended with games, lucky draws, a karaoke session and boogie night.

Resort Manager, Mr Luke J Cox, added, “I often feel humbled to be in the presence of such hardworking, committed and energetic people on this island. These boys and girls really do make this island the success that it is today!”

“It was hard-work but we are now proud to say that we are now only one of the only PADI 5 Star Dive Resorts in Sabah.

A great achievement!”

PADI 5 Star Resort at Mataking—WE DID IT!

.It gave the resort great pleasure in December to accept the PADI 5 Star Award from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) for offering exceptional service, value for money and choice to the diving community.

Our Dive Centre Manager, Neo said, “After months of hard work, I am so proud of my team for achieving this status for themselves, the department and the resort. The team really is a 5 star

team!” We now offer the full range of PADI Specialties, apart from Ice-Diver. (The only ice you will find here is in your drinks!)

We offer diver workshops, refresher training and a specialty of the month which means it is now even more affordable to enhance your diving knowledge here at Mataking.

In just a few months we are already seeing some great life arriv-

ing at the newest shipwreck, the Sipadan Mermaid, and we are now offering dive trips to Pulau Simil where we are discovering new and exciting dive sites to explore.



A VERY Merry Christmas on the Resort

This year at Mataking we celebrated Christmas and New Year in a unique and traditional style.

The festivities began on Christmas Eve with a cultural staff performance and a great selection of Christmas Carols followed by a Karaoke Session to welcome in Christmas Day.

After the Annual Christmas Day dive, our guests then settled down

to a delicious Christmas Day luncheon with a tasty Malaysian twist, including presents for all from our very own resident Santa Clause!

New Years Eve was extra special this year as we presented an International / Asian fusion BBQ on the sundeck, which culminated in the lighting of wish lanterns into the night sky and at midnight a great fireworks display off both the

main and diving jetties.

One of our guests, Mary Holt from Sweden, said, “It was so pleasant to sit amongst the stars, eat great food and enjoy the fun of the evening. We are going to try and get back here for Christmas again next year”.

Next year promises to be even bigger and better so don’t miss the fun. Book Now!!



A Whole New Level of Luxury

We are now very proud to offer a whole new level of luxury at Matakating.

After months of painstaking renovation and expansion, in January we launched our new grand and comforting reception hall, together with our luxury beach island villas.

The reception, with its hand-woven along-alang grass roofing offers a great place to meet and greet and to just chill-out with friends or loved ones in peace and tranquility.

Set back from our main jetty, lo-

cally carved lounge seats adorn the frontage to the reception with a cool marble tiled flooring and rustic finishing.

A home to our new Activities Centre, guests can easily book and arrange all island activities with ease and at their own leisure from here, as well as having the use of our house telephones and internet facilities.

Our new Luxury Island Beach Villas also bring a whole new level of luxury at the resort.

As well as having a king-size bed in each bedroom and an over-

sized washroom with hand-crafted stone basins, the big surprises with these villa's are outside.

At the front of each Villa, the guests will find their very own secluded front garden with gazebo and relaxation area overlooking the crystal blue Alice Channel, whilst at the rear, even more luxury awaits.

At the rear of each Jacuzzi in the jungle backdrop, our guests will find their very own private Jacuzzi, outside cool shower and further patio relaxation.

"It has been really hard work pulling these projects together, but the end result is really worth it. These villas are beautiful both inside and out and I am sure that every guest that stays at a villa will fall in love.



Celebrating the Year of the Tiger a ROARING Success!

This year, The Chinese New Year Lunar Calendar fell on the same date as Valentines Day—a double celebration!

According to Chinese astrology, 2010 is the year of The Tiger. More specifically, they are calling this The Year of the Metal Tiger which is said to bring in prosperity as well as many other positive transformations.

At Matakating this year we took

advantage of this great double-celebration by offering our guests a delicious Chinese buffet, complete with Yee Sang which is traditionally eaten to enhance our chances for greater prosperity in 2010.

Following the buffet, guests were treated to an exciting interactive performance by our staff, including Chinese games, dancing and the famous Lion Dance which was performed by our energetic and

enthusiastic Landscape team.

In 2010, the Chinese astrology has described the Year of the Tiger to be 'tumultuous, hard working and vigorous year.'



The Matakating Management Team wish prosperity for all in 2010!

KidsScuba and Scuba Rangers Adventure 2010

In February we had great pleasure to invite our good friends from Kids Scuba back to the resort for a weekend of diving, education and fun with our Dive Crew.

The Malaysian Scuba rangers and Kids Scuba group is the most successful in the world, so it was a great privilege for us to welcome them back to the resort in 2010.

This year, the energetic leader of

the gang, Syed brought along 26 divers of all ages along to the resort to take part in a real underwater adventure.

The kids had great fun both in the water and on the land, taking part in jungle trekking, kayaking and leading their own mini-expeditions around the island.

One of our Divemasters, Apong, was amazed with the confidence

and ability of these young divers. "They are so good underwater and I have no doubt that some of them are going to make great scuba instructors one day" he said.

We all look forward to welcoming this lively and energetic group back to Matakating again soon.

Until then.... Happy bubbles!



The Kids Scuba and Scuba Rangers crew pose for a quick snap before getting wet again!

The Reef Dive Resort
 Sales Office
 TB 212, Jln. Bunga,
 Fajar Complex,
 91000 Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia
 Tel: 6089—770022
 Fax:6089—770023
 Website: www.mataking.com
 Email : sales@mataking.com



In the July and August months the island regularly enjoys guests from our partners in Italy and other parts of Europe.

However, this year, after popular demand by our European agents we will be making two guest appearances in Europe.

Between March 10th and March 13th we will be at the International Trade Event (ITB) in Berlin, Germany.

And then....

Between March 26th and March 28th we will be at the London international Dive Show (LIDS) in London, UK.

At these events, our Resort Manager and PADI IDC Staff Instructor, Mr. Luke J COX will be showcasing the new and exciting products at Mataking.

Mr. Luke said, "The aim of us attending these events is to celebrate our successes both locally and internationally and to promote not only the resort, but Sabah as a holiday destination. Our resort has gained more and more popularity as the perfect getaway over the years, but now we are taking it to a whole new level".

Were on the Web....

Check us out at www.mataking.com.

You said..... we did!

The comments that we receive from our valued customers are very important to us here, as it allows us to make the improvements that YOU want to see at the resort.

Here are a few examples of what YOU said and what WE did...

You said...



Assistant Resort Manager Mas and Island Masseuse Lily plan our Island Beach Massage techniques for 2010

"The Jamu Spa is a great place to go and relax and be pampered, but sometimes I just want to chill out on the beach"

We did...

"No problem. We are now operating a mobile beach massage service. The girls will massage you at the waters edge in the comfort of your very own sun-chair.

You said...

"We would like to know more about the conservation efforts that the island is making"

We did...

"Our resident Marine Biologist, Amelia Ng now offers monthly workshops on turtle conservation

issues, our new coconut crab monitoring programme and our efforts being made to become a Marine Protected Area"

... Until the next quarter, stay safe, be happy and best wishes to all of you.



