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RECOGNISING THE DISTRESSED DIVER

"There is no such thing as an accident. What we are seeing is an effect-from a cause which we do not see." (at the time)

Voltaire

This list has been sent to us by Wayne Williams and Dr John Williamson. It was compiled by a group of experienced Townsville instructors who had observed these problems over the years, with apprehensive pupils.

WARNING SIGNS OF IMPENDING TROUBLE IN NOVICE DIVERS

BEFORE THE DIVE

Vague symptoms to "cop out"
Stalling tactics
Super-quiet

KITTING UP

Errors of simple technique

ENTRY

Grasping boat lines high above the waterline
Inefficient finning
Wide eyed
Inappropriate concern about diving conditions
Reluctant to give up regulator for snorkel
Not following instructions

DESCENT

Equalisation problems -
where no previous problems existed
Buoyancy problems -
where no previous problems existed

THE DIVE

Buoyancy problems
Will not go to the bottom
Keeps off the bottom
Wide eyed
Poor observation of surroundings
Fails to obey pre-dive instructions
Works much harder than other divers
Rapid air consumption (sometimes)

THE 'UP' SYNDROME

A mental attitude where the solution to any problem is rushing to the surface

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