



For Immediate Release: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018

## Team Depththerapy gives back in latest Red Sea success

Five new PADI Open Water Divers, three new PADI Advanced Open Water and Deep Divers, seven new Coral Conservation Divers and four new Depththerapy Education Professionals... that's the tally of success from Team Depththerapy's latest Red Sea expedition.

At the end of May 2018, UK scuba diving rehabilitation charity Depththerapy held it's largest ever expedition to the Egyptian Red Sea. A team of 25, including 17 wounded in service veterans, all suffering from life changing physical and / or mental injuries, travelled to Roots Dive Camp in El Quseir as part of Team Depththerapy.

The expedition also marked the beginning of Depththerapy's '**Protecting Our Oceans**' project – an ongoing campaign to raise awareness of the fragility of the world's oceans, ensuring that each Depththerapy Programme Member 'gives back' to the marine environment that has so helped in their rehabilitation.

During the expedition, all Programme Members took part in a 'Dive Against Debris' underwater and beach clean up, successfully removing over 1 kilometre of entangled fishing line.

Seven of the Programme Members also undertook a coral reef surveying and conservation course, led by Tom Dallison, Head of Science at Coral Cay Conservation. The aim of the five-day course was to develop skills in underwater environmental survey techniques and species identification, in order to prepare the divers for an expedition to Truk Lagoon this August.

Tom Dallison said:

*"Depththerapy's Protecting Our Oceans project now has seven passionate and knowledgeable ambassadors. In times where the future of our coral reefs and Oceans can look bleak, the efforts taken by environmental stewards, and the wider public, to actively protect these systems is critical. With an increased affinity to the marine world and a new perspective on the complexity and beauty of coral reefs, those heading to Truk are in good hands. I am truly grateful for the week spent with the Depththerapy team. I wish them all the best for the future and have no doubt that they will triumph in Truk Lagoon."*



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 Companies House Number: 09756000 . Charity Commission Registered 1166310  
 President - Air Vice-Marshal Dr Jon Lamonte DL Ph DMA BSc (Hons) CDir CMath CCMi FCIMA FCILT FIOD FRICS FRIN FRSA CDipAFDLRAF (retd)





Team Depththerapy was led by Depththerapy Ambassador and newly appointed Trustee, former Royal Engineer Ben Lee. Double-amputee Ben is currently training to be a Divemaster and recently won the Royal Foundation's Endeavour Fund 'Recognising Achievement' Award.

The charity is now focusing on the build up to the Truk Lagoon expedition, which will take place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018. This major expedition is funded by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's 2016 Libor Fund.

Ben Lee is already working with other expedition members to formulate the plan for mapping the wreck of the former Naval Tanker, the Shinkoku Maru, in what will be a key environmental exercise and the next stage in the Protecting Our Oceans project.

With applications for places on the Depththerapy Programme at an unprecedented high, the charity also intends to undertake a further expedition to the Red Sea in October 2018.

***Do you know... it costs £1500 to fund a wounded in service veteran on a PADI Open Water course on the Depththerapy Programme. Depththerapy's life changing work can only continue if they raise enough funds. The charity receives at least two applications every week from British Armed Forces veterans who would benefit from their Programme. Please help Depththerapy continue to make a difference to their lives. Pledge your support and find out more about Depththerapy & Depththerapy Education at [www.depththerapy.co.uk](http://www.depththerapy.co.uk).***

Ends

## Notes for Editors

**Images:** The attached images can be used to illustrate this story - (1) Depththerapy Programme Members Andy Searle and Jon Beever take part in the coral reef surveying and conservation course; (2) Depththerapy Programme Members Andy Searle and Ben Lee on the Dive Against Debris; and, (3) Team Depththerapy launch the Protecting Our Oceans project at Roots Red Sea May 2018. All photos: Dmitry Knyazev for Depththerapy.

**Depththerapy & Depththerapy Education** is an English Charity registered with the Charity Commission. It seeks to rehabilitate UK Armed Service personnel and veterans who have suffered life changing mental and/or physical challenges through specially designed Scuba Diving Programmes. It also provides 24/7 support to Programme Members. Depththerapy is widely respected for changing the lives of those who come on the Programme. Many



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74 Programme Members have suffered limb loss and or acute mental illness. 80% of Programme Members suffer from PTSD or other acute forms of mental illness. The charity also provides education in adaptive scuba diving techniques to Dive Professionals.

**Coral Cay Conservation** is an award-winning NGO that specialises in the organisation of community based coral reef and tropical forest expeditions. Currently active in the Philippines, research teams composed of staff and international volunteers collect data to aid local governments and communities in the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, whilst increasing capacity through local education initiatives and scholarship opportunities. Coral Cay Conservation welcome volunteers all year round, who are integral to their conservation-focused efforts. For further information please visit [www.coralcay.org](http://www.coralcay.org) or email [info@coralcay.org](mailto:info@coralcay.org).

**For further information and / or images & video, please contact:**

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