

MEDIA RELEASE

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World Record Attempt to Raise Money for Charity

Scuba diving is usually all about exploring the great unknown, but for one Brisbane man, it's a mission to explore his own boundaries. The scuba diver aims to break a Guinness World Record by spending more than eight hours underwater using just one oxygen cylinder, all in the name of charity.

Brisbane Dive Academy's Mick Wheatley will take part in the record breaking attempt at Brisbane's premier event – the Ekka – on Wednesday August 17, where he will be submerged in a Perspex glass tank only 3 metres by 2 metres in approximately 15,000 litres of heated fresh water.

Mick will have to remain underwater for more than 8 hours 20 minutes and 38 seconds to smash the current record, which is held by South African Jacobus Jacob. Jacobus had previously taken the title from a Sunshine Coast dive shop in 2007.

Mick said: "When I first learned to scuba dive, I was getting 15 minutes from a tank of oxygen. This attempt will use a tank of the same size, but it has to last me about eight-and-a-half hours. That means that I should be using about 7.2 litres of oxygen a minute."

"There really isn't any training you can do for this event. It's not about lung capacity or strength. In fact it's about relaxing, minimising your movements and breathing slowly and calmly."

Mick is no stranger to doing his bit for charity. The scuba dive instructor helps MontroseAccess to run the world's first Shark Bait Kids program, a unique opportunity to swim alongside sharks and stingrays in a safe and therapeutic environment for kids with duchenne muscular dystrophy.

MontroseAccess Communications Manager, Adam Harper, said: "Our clients who participate in the MontroseAccess Shark Bait Kids program have always looked up to Mick as a role model. They have to face trials every single day and to witness Mick's determination in overcoming his own challenges would be a massive boost of inspiration to them."

With 16 years of diving experience, Mick is confident that he will emerge from the tank victorious. Hold your breath, Australia, because a Guinness World Record may be reclaimed this August.

Mick is raising money for MontroseAccess as well as Project Aware, which is the not-for-profit arm of PADI and is all about keeping the oceans clean. To support him in his incredible attempt, you can contact Leanne Liesegang on (07) 3717 1109 or email her at lliesegang@montroseaccess.org.au

If you would like high res images or to arrange a photo shoot or interview, please feel free to contact MontroseAccess Communications Manager, Adam Harper, on (07) 3717 1184 or 0404 871 360 or email aharper@montroseaccess.org.au

Disability care for kids