

Lucas Handley Biography

Lucas Handley

Marine Biologist, Underwater
photographer, Freediver.



Lucas spent his childhood barefoot on a farm in the Byron Bay hinterland in Eastern Australia. His days were spent exploring the nearby rainforest, looking for platypus, pulling yabbies out of the creek, climbing trees and building dens. Lucas started exploring the ocean as a young boy, spearfishing for the family meal. As an eight-year-old, when other kids were reading Dr Seuss, he was reading fish taxonomy books and knew all the Latin names of the fish he caught.

Now, as a marine biologist, underwater photographer and freedive instructor, Lucas is more likely to be found underwater than above water, diving to depths of 55m on one breath of air. Able to hold his breath for six minutes, the ocean is his spiritual home.

Lucas promotes a global approach to ecologically sustainable development. He has worked on campaigns to force inquiries into better management of our precious marine resources and assisted in hands-on scientific research. Lucas insists that reliable science and a deep understanding of all the people who use it, what they value, and what their needs are are essential to managing this finite resource.

One way he is doing this is through his work with Scuba for Change, an organisation that invests in Pacific Island communities and their sustainable future. He is helping villagers in the Solomon Islands and the Philippines keep their reefs intact by developing their own ecotourism enterprises.



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