

THE ADAS CLOSED BELL (PART 4) COURSE IS BACK

The ADAS Closed Bell (Part 4) deep sea diving certification, also known as Closed Bell or saturation training, is once again underway in Australia. After a long hiatus in training at the highest level following the liquidation of both The Under-Water-Centre (TUCT) in Tasmania and Fort William in Scotland, this spells great news for the industry.

After the liquidation of TUCT in 2017 the school was purchased by experienced school owner Alan Strong who had founded The New Zealand school of Commercial Diver Training before moving on to set up Hydropro in Singapore, a subsea company that services the Asian offshore market.

With many contacts in the oil and gas sector willing to assist with procuring equipment, aiding in system upgrades and compliance and eager to hire students trained to the highest calibre, Alan knew there would not be a better time to purchase the school from the liquidators and so in early 2018 the Commercial Dive Academy (CDA) was founded with the vision to set the benchmark in safety and efficiency in the marine, oil and gas industries.

The first task to be completed was a full upgrade and refurbishment of the barge which entailed removing all equipment from the deck and below to create space for the crib and soon to be acquired hyperbaric Rescue Chamber. Staff used this time to refamiliarize themselves with all operations of the ancillary equipment.





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Photos:

Above: Allister Albert and Jitesh Chauhan after completing CDA's first bell run.

Left: CDA's Closed Bell.

Of course, CDA still needed to acquire a number of key items such as the HRC, TUP spool piece and clamping which is where a number of companies stepped up and proved that some companies really do care about improving the industry and offering high quality training.

Neptune Offshore Services and their new owners MMA Offshore were the first company to offer aid to CDA, followed quickly by Royal Dutch Shell DCOE. Both companies assisted CDA providing much needed gear and contacts for items. Hydropro then stepped in and provided saturation technicians at no cost in times when CDA needed extra specialist help. This entire overhaul, which demanded replacing most of the old system, was done over an additional 18-month period and CDA built valuable relationships with knowledgeable and reputable suppliers.

As HSE manager Stephen Clark put it, “This was a way harder process than planned and took 12 months longer than intended.” However, it was all coming together, and the barge looked and operated great. It was finally time to put it to the test before going public with courses, and so, in 2019 three initial courses took place.

On the first course an equipment issue occurred where an ‘all stop’ was called. CDA took a safety-first approach and sent trainees home at the school's expense while a root cause analysis took place. Once the error with the lifting gear was amended all students were brought back and successfully completed the first trial run of the course.

CDA has now completed all three initial courses and Alan cannot emphasise enough how the “support from Neptune Offshore Services and Hydropro was what made this all possible.”

Glen Martin, the Saturation Training Manager, had the following to say: “The procedures and systems are a level far ahead of where the saturation training was in the past. I have worked with Alan in the past and I've come back to training at the school again because of his good attitude and love of the dive industry.”

Over 2019, the first three saturation courses were completed and there is a very busy schedule planned for 2020. CDA's next goal is to offer graduates a long-term, fulfilling, and viable career pathway that extends to retirement.

To enrol, call the team today on +61 36383 484, or email them at: info@commercialdiveacademy.com