

# What makes DAN special?

By Toni Krige-McQuillen

DAN HAS PROVIDED SERVICES TO DIVERS FOR YEARS, BUT FEW REALISE THE EXTENT OF DAN'S DEDICATION. FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WHAT MAKES DAN ONE OF A KIND.

**DAN** was created to fill a need in the industry for medical expertise in diving-related injuries, but what really drives us is our passion for diving and divers; this is the core of our mission and what makes us the best at what we do. One might say that DAN is a monopoly in the industry or mistake us for insurance, however, it may interest you to learn that DAN is a non-profit organisation. What makes this such an important point? Well, it is simple. It means that our focus is purely on the member and not on profit. Our dedicated doctors donate their time to DAN members, and the employed staff members of DAN believe in the mission of dive safety.

“ OUR FOCUS IS PURELY ON THE MEMBER AND NOT ON PROFIT.

The fact that DAN is a non-profit organisation benefits all divers, and allows us to have a 24-hour emergency hotline. As a diver, you will have heard about the wonderful work that has been done by the hotline, with long hours and staff that are dedicated to looking after injured divers. This may not seem like a big deal to outsiders, but as we have learnt from the start of our diving courses even safe diving practice is not a prevention from a diving accident, and many things that are out of our control can affect our dives. When these accidents happen, you need to consider the destination diving takes you to, and you may have noticed that these are mostly remote locations. It is amazing how paradise can become a nightmare when something like a diving accident happens and there are few medical facilities available (never mind diving medical expertise). This is where DAN can seem like the light at the end of the tunnel, and be reassuring to a diver when these unforeseen incidents occur. We assist not only in your medical treatment or evacuation efficiently and with expertise, but also in reassuring you and assisting you in getting the right help you may need for that particular incident.

But DAN is not all doom and gloom. We are not just here for emergencies,



Image by Cormac McCreesh.

but also as a source of helpful information to you, the diver. You may have a medical enquiry, or a medication enquiry, or perhaps you just want to know more about what medical conditions are safe to dive with. Whatever your needs, our hotline provides you with free assistance, and you can call the emergency number 24 hours a day and receive the information you require from a friendly expert. DAN has also provided members with a lot of this information on our website, so feel free to visit us on [www.dansa.org](http://www.dansa.org)

DAN also contributes towards dive-safety research. The very start of diving medicine was researching medications and physiology when diving. It is an evolving medical field and there is always more we can learn from this research which relies heavily on member funding.

DAN also has a professional administration office, which maintains our membership and keeps you up to date on the latest DAN news. The DAN office is key in ensuring that our members get relevant renewal notices and membership cover information, and that our members' cover is in place. Both new and old members are always impressed with this level of service, and you will often hear about it from fellow DAN members. It is our pleasure to be of service to all divers alike.

“ YOU CAN CALL THE EMERGENCY NUMBER 24 HOURS A DAY AND RECEIVE THE INFORMATION YOU REQUIRE FROM A FRIENDLY EXPERT.

As you can see, all the above makes us a very important team; one that works together to make sure that our DAN members are looked after not only in their time of need, but even when just looking for information, regardless of its importance. It is all a priority to us, and so are our members. AD