

TOKORIKI SURFACE INTERVAL

Shark Madness

The first question many visitors ask us is are there any sharks here?

While we might be tempted to deny their existence, the fact is that there are quite a few sharks in the waters around Tokoriki - and recently they have been more active and visible than usual.

In February a small school of sardines appeared in the lagoon in front of the dive shop, and it wasn't long before the predators arrived to cash in...



Up to a dozen baby black tip reef sharks (all about 30cm in length), have been delighting guests, cruising the waterline within inches of the shore, and throwing themselves into the sardines with great gusto.

Needless to say these little guys are completely harmless (unless you are a sardine!), and are extremely important for the health of the reef.

Tokoriki Dive Centre wins Project AWARE Environmental Award for 2009

How excited are we?! For the third year in a row Dive Tropex Tokoriki has won the *PADI Project AWARE Environmental Achievement Award*.

The Project AWARE Foundation honors dive operators around the world who display commitment and excellence in their efforts to protect underwater environments within business operations and their community.

"The Environmental Achievement Award is about rewarding vision, excellence and pursuit of

conservation. More importantly, this award ensures the enjoyment of underwater environments for future generations," said Henrik Nimb, Project AWARE Foundation Director, Asia Pacific.

Project AWARE Foundation, a registered nonprofit organization, works in direct partnership with divers and water enthusiasts to conserve underwater environments through education, advocacy and action. To get involved in environmental activities and make a lasting difference visit www.projectaware.org



High Chief visits Tokoriki Clam site

Early in the year Tokoriki played host to Ratu Seva—the High Chief of the whole region.

As part of his stay at Tokoriki he visited our Giant Clam Project Site.

As Ratu Seva was not a diver; our only option was to raise one of our endangered *tridacna gigas* clams to show him. Not an easy task when one realizes that one of our mid sized clams weighs a hefty 40kg!

Armed with fish sling bag and floatation aids Will managed to bring up to the boat a baby clam less than one year old and one of our 9 year old brood stock.

Once photos were taken and measurements made, the clams were returned safely to their seabed unharmed.

