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The Official  
Publication  
of the  
Auckland  
University  
Underwater  
Club



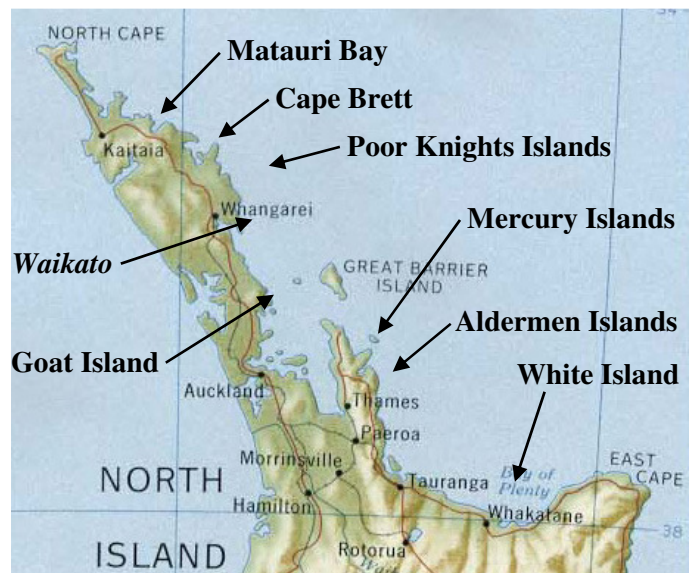
## Editorial

Welcome to Flotsam, the newsletter of the Auckland University Underwater Club. Flotsam has been out of action of late – somebody forgot to bring it back from one of the club dives – but we are keen to revive it in 2006. I have put together this brief 2005 edition to get you thinking for next year. The newsletter will only be a fun read if people contribute – I’m pretty sure you’ll get bored reading my view of dives all the time – so get involved. Email me material and I’ll put it in! Are you an artist? Doodle some fish sketches. Share a seafood recipe. Been diving overseas, tell all? Write a review of your favourite dive site or fish. Have you got some gear you’d like to sell? Are you into dive physiology, dive medicine or freediving? Did you just buy new fins? Evaluate them. Eager to share the discovery of a pristine bed of scallops (actually you probably want to keep that one to yourself!)? We can put all that material and much more in Flotsam so get writing!

Ali Perkins (Editor)

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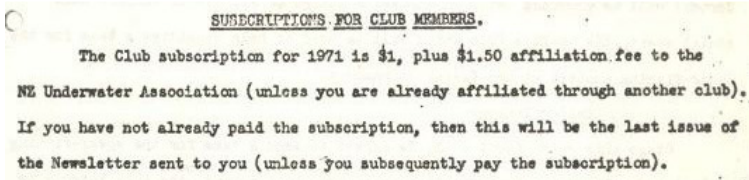
## Where did we Dive in 2005?



- Goat Island
- Wreck of the *Waikato*
- Poor Knights Islands
- Cape Brett
- Matauri Bay (*Rainbow Warrior*)
- Aldermen Islands
- Mercury Islands
- White Island
- Various fountains around Auckland city!

## Blast from the Past

Remember when it cost \$1 to join the AUUC, there was no such thing as email so dive trips were advertised on notice boards, Flotsams were produced on a typewriter and dive depths were measured in feet not metres? Chances are you won't because that was the 70's! Here is an excerpt from a 1971 Flotsam.



Membership of the AUUC now costs a very respectable \$20 for students and \$30 for non-students. Get your friends to join and get diving! Look out for freediving trips in 2006.

## The 2006 Committee

### President

Elliott Jones

[prez@akunidive.com](mailto:prez@akunidive.com)

### Secretary

Rowan McKinlay-Sadgrove

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### Treasurer

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### Trips Officer

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### Boat Officer

Daniel Waters

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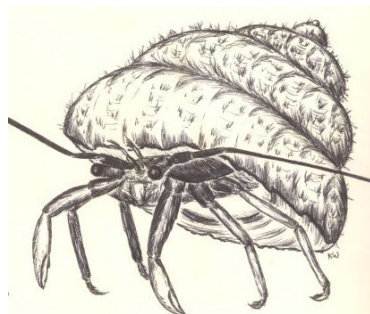
### Boat Support Officer

Darren Swinton

### Freediving

Erica Colley

### Flotsam 1978



### Training Officer

Simon Freeman

[training@akunidive.com](mailto:training@akunidive.com)

### Webmaster

Brett Simpson

[webmaster@akunidive.com](mailto:webmaster@akunidive.com)

### Flotsam Editor

Alison Perkins

### General Committee

Hayden Lewis

Kate Rogers

## Committee Member Profile

### Elliott Jones - President '06



Elliott shows off the 10.4 kilogram Skipjack tuna he hauled in near White Island.

**Occupation:** Customer Service at Kelly Tarlton's.

**Dive Qualifications:** PADI Advanced Open Water, TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression.

**Diving Since:** 2001 – around 120 dives.

**Joined AUUC:** 2002.

**Committee History:** General Committee 2003, Secretary 2005, President 2006.

**Favourite Dive Site:** Laison's Reef, White Island.

**General Information:** Elliott is a keen underwater photographer and identifier of fish. Ask him all about the cool fish you saw on your last dive!

## Cowshed Backpackers



Cowshed Backpackers before the extensions began.

My dive buddy waved his arms frantically at me. I interpreted his underwater signing to mean “your wetsuit is on fire”. That’s weird I thought. He gestured down and I looked. Beneath me loitered the most enormous Octopus I have ever seen and I was practically kicking it in the head. The body of the Octopus was ingeniously camouflaged in the purples that covered the surrounding rocks. It inched creepily along the sea floor with outstretched tentacles. In an instant, the purple body colours flared angrily to white stars.



Is that Ming and a puffer fish I see?

If you haven’t already been, a visit to Shane and Julia’s Cowshed Backpackers for diving at Cape Brett (Bay of Islands) is an absolute must. I spent the recent Labour long weekend languishing there with a bunch of other club members and experienced some spectacular diving, to rival Poor Knights in my opinion.



A scallop fights back.

We arose each day for an 8:30am cooked breakfast and embarked on *Hotdog* and *Tin Can* for 2 dives as well as a quota-filling scallop dive thanks to being dropped right on the scallop bed by Shane. The slimy critters were shucked, cooked up in garlic and olive oil and devoured before one of Julia’s ripping roast chicken feasts with potatoes, kumara, pumpkin, peas, carrots, gravy and Yorkshire puddings. Shane and Julia offer the club generous discounted rates on food, accommodation, gear hire and dives making for an awesome 3 day trip.

**Ali Perkins**

## White Island

They emerged from the surface above and exploded through the water with lightning speed. My heart raced. They circled the group. With a flick of their flippers, the New Zealand fur seals vanished as quickly as they had appeared.

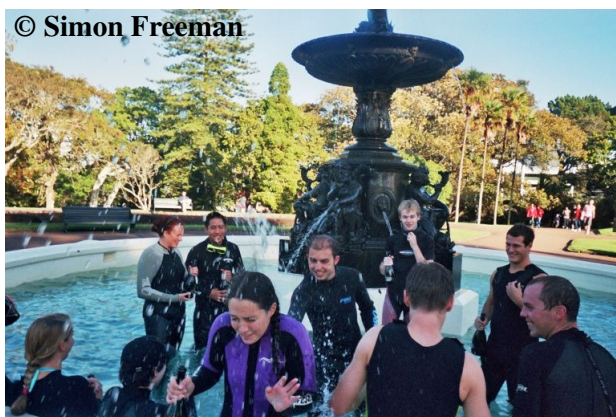


An inquisitive New Zealand fur seal.

Diving White Island from John Baker's *Ma Cherie* may be one of the most amazing dive trips that you will do with AUUC. Stay tuned for the dive 2006 schedule.

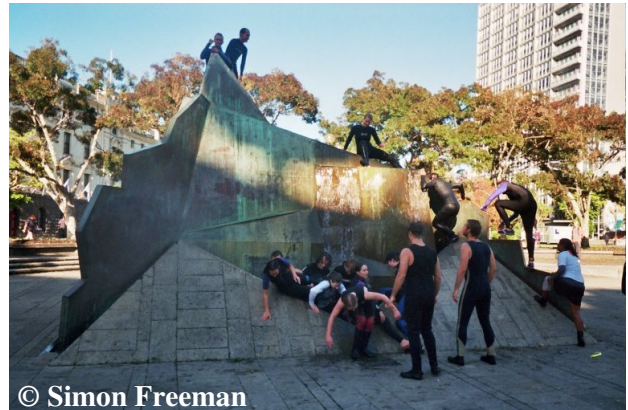
## Ali Perkins

## Fountain Crawl 2005



The only fish species identified in the Albert Park fountain was *Diver sapiens*.

25 club members dressed in wetsuits downed copious amounts of alcohol supplied by the club and swam in fountains all over Auckland while being pursued unsuccessfully by the police and security guards. It was a roaring success!



Pop Quiz: How many divers can you fit in the Aotea Square fountain?

## Ali Perkins

## What's Going Down?

The dive calendar can also be found on the club website at [www.akunidive.com](http://www.akunidive.com)

### 9, 10 & 11 December 2005

TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression

Cowshed Backpackers

Contact Simon

[simon.freeman@fphcare.co.nz](mailto:simon.freeman@fphcare.co.nz)

### 17 & 18 December 2005

Cowshed Backpackers

Contact Simon

[simon.freeman@fphcare.co.nz](mailto:simon.freeman@fphcare.co.nz)

There'll be plenty more diving going down over summer. Email a Committee Member to find out more.

## DISCLAIMER

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