

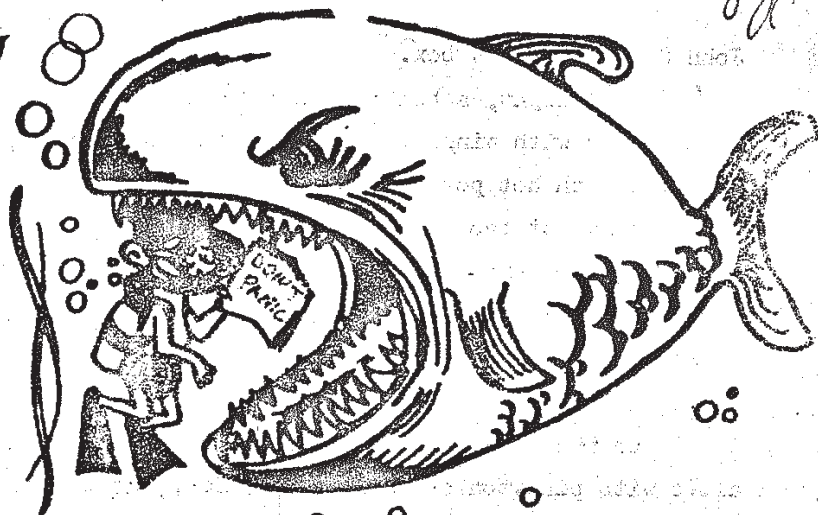
# Auckland University

## Underwater Club

Private Bag, Auckland.

### Newsletter,

1971, No. 3 (June).



MATAI BAY DIVE May '71.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Following in the trail of those Easter camp pioneers, a small group of club veterans set out one morning to rediscover the diving of Matai Bay.

With a hired Commer van to carry the usual gear (as well as Garry T, Jane J & self) we hit the starter button in grand style - to find a dead battery. Normally, the enthusiasm to get away (which is always felt at the start of such a diving trip) carries us through such little incidents, & this was to be no exception. The others took off, & I started walking for help. Much later, & after tremendous odds had been overcome, we arrived up North to find the others taking bets on our arrival time, & trying to keep themselves awake. Garry & Jane, both haggard & white, were too polite to comment on the driving & found relief in putting dinner on while we put the tents up & made camp.

It rained in the night, but next morning with a light fine day we set out for the Albert Reef in Tom Cottell's "Ranui".

While Garry & Dave C+B scraped their flashbulbs we checked weight-belts & comps, turned air on & fought for balance as the swell rocked the boat. The first 60' or so down were unusually barren, but further down schools of fish surrounded us & at 100' we levelled off on the bottom. All around, the curious sea-lilies (or crinoids) grew in a profusion of waving black-branched tentacles, while Mado with their bright yellow & black stripes were everywhere. Schools of small trevalli continually passed over with their whitish sides, & the inevitable inquisitive kingfish appeared for their brief inspection. Further on, a school of golden snapper had found a large cleft in the reef & hung there, moving in small circles over the yellow & orange clumps of sponge on the bottom. It was incredible! Suddenly, there in front, the largest granddaddy hapuka I've ever seen glared malevolently up, & a yellow moray behind him emphasized the point: a nasty little hole! The DCP needle meanwhile was creeping up fast, so we too crept up fast & surfaced, to find the others heading towards the boat.

After a cup of tea & patiently listening to the ravings of other enraptured divers, it was time to go down again over a new rock, this time with a speargun. Immediately the water was filled with blue mao-mao & 3 or 4 large fish below them rose to do battle. I dived down just as they started to turn, & fired. For a few seconds there was pandemonium, but in less than a minute he had been subdued & passed up to the boat, whose stern bobbed just above all the action. This acted like a shot of adrenalin on those who hadn't been in the water, & everyone went over the side. The hunt was on, & within 15-20 minutes two 10 lb moki (blue) & a larger snapper (expertly speared by

John S) were in the box.

That night, a bonfire blazed on the beach, & after a dinner of curried mince washed down with wine, we feasted on the snapper & moki, stuffed by Jane & baked over the fire with hot potatoes.

The next two days were perfect with sun, no wind & Graham Phillip to skim us out to the Cape & Beyond in his 18' diving craft. The diving & skindiving were great, with the so-far-scarce kingies taking a heavy toll on spears & drop-offs. Tony B, showing his usual cunning, managed to spear one while it wasn't looking, the only kingfish on this trip.

On the other side of Doubtless Bay conditions were just as good, but with the water alive with planktonic salps, ctenophores, crustacea & other muck. We were dropped by Graham at the edge of a point where trevalli were schooling, & true to form we were immediately surrounded by hordes of them, whilst a small school of large snapper lurked below. We must have used every trick in the book to try & get a shot at those snapper, but they wouldn't give us a chance. Ron V shot a good-sized trevalli, & its struggles quickly brought a kingfish out of the deep. There, with the kingfish absorbed in trying to bite the trevalli dangling below his flippers, I had the satisfaction (?) of a point-blank shot bouncing off a gill-plate. Diving was near-to-perfect, but the best part of the saga was yet to come.

The previous afternoon, John S & Tony B had decided to go for a shallow lung dive just off Matai Bay, & had stumbled on a reef full of crays. Unprepared as they were, without gloves or bags, John managed to pick up five large bugs, & by tangling them up in the line of my spear-gun we managed to bring them ashore. We decided, after making two to three hundred cross-references on the position, that the rest would be left for tomorrow.

Next afternoon, having left plenty of time & 1000-odd lb.in<sup>-2</sup> of air, we anchored over the reef & casually suited-up. An air of professionalism was present, with even Graham preparing to do his worst. With our force of six, we split up in pairs: two to cover the right flank; two to the left & two forming the main attack down the centre. Everything was planned & ready - we just hoped that the crays would still be there. And they were! From every crack & ledge the tell-tale feelers poked, while all around me lower halves of divers protruded from holes & under overhangs. The clouds of sand flying with bits of feelers & occasional legs testified to the struggle which was raging fiercely. The turning point came when a 5lb male was captured. Crayfish were crawling over the bottom at this stage, & although we ignored the many infants & pregnant females among them the males were easy prey. The rims of the sacks grew hot with opening & closing, but the end was in sight. Finally, with air low, we were forced to ascend, but the victory was ours. We could leave Matai Bay the next day with Honour - and crayfish! No more would parents, flatmates & girlfriends smile sympathetically to stories of diving bounties, told with empty hands - the proof would be in their hands!

And so, with our thanks to Graham Philip for his invaluable help, we left Matai. The water was again flat calm & the sun was beginning to heat up. An omen for next time? We'll soon see.

Dave Rowe.

New Members.

Blennerhasset, Alistair J.	6 Harenwood Place, Birkenhead	483425
Kircher, John	27 Birdwood Crescent, Parnell	
*Mansfield, Peter	139 Litton Rd; Howick	HOW. 6000M
Shields, Alan	116 O'Donnell Ave; Mt. Roskill	

AMENDMENTS to the Addresses of Members, given in the April Newsletter.

*Amoore, John	65 Onslow Rd; Epsom	688792
*Davison, Paul	21 Manawai Rd; Remuera	547230
Bacon, Marjorie R.	8 Glenmore Rd; Pakuranga	569518
Clinton-Baker, David	28 King Edward Ave; Epsom	600812
Grace, Roger V.	8 Glenmore Rd; Pakuranga	569518
*Hall, Heather	Flat 2, 10 Bellwood Ave; Mt. Eden	604649
*Hart, Dick	47 Tawa Crescent, Manurewa	MAN 68024
*Holroyd, Wayne E.	19 Hedley Rd; Mt. Roskill	695922
*Irvine, Kierin	28 King Edward Ave; Epsom	600812
*Jerse, Adriana	Flat 3, 96 Titirangi Rd; Titirangi	
*Jones, Mark	8 King George Ave; Epsom	604130
*Lane, Don	21 Selwyn Ave; Mission Bay	584668
Lindsay, John Clark	(Identical with Clark, John)	
*McCullough, Jenny	2 Fairview Rd; Mt. Eden	657111
Murray, Tony	8 King George Ave; Epsom (Committee)	604130
*Parkcr, G.	75 Te Atatu Rd; Te Atatu	HEN 63861
Watkins, W. B.	P.O. Box 30012, Auckland 9	
*Westerby, B.	127 Peary Rd; Mt. Eden	699962

CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC EVENING.  
\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*

6.30pm on Thursday 1-7-71, in the Botany Lecture Theatre.

Bring along your slides & prints of diving activities (above & below water), to display to the other members! Bring your friends along to this meeting, so that they can learn something about the Club's activities.

At this meeting, photographs will be selected for the Club's entries to this year's Photographic Contest, which will be held in the Cafeteria from 7pm to 9.30pm on Friday, 30-7-71 (with a Social to follow). Entrants in the Photographic Contest will be able to tape their commentaries on their entries, at a special meeting on Friday 23-7-71.

TRAINING COURSE.  
=====

Last term, after the closure of the Tepid Baths, sessions were arranged in another smaller pool, with the trainees divided into Groups A & B. Group B had a somewhat chilly hour in the open-air pool, since the management had forgotten to turn on the heating! The following week, on the days before Group A's session, the management assured us that the heating was on, & that the pool would be comfortably warm. Four hours after the last such assurance, the manager's secretary telephoned to tell us that the maintenance staff had drained the pool, & begun painting it!!!

This term, the Baths sessions have resumed at the Tepid Baths, from 9 to 10pm on Wednesdays. Groups A & B (listed in detail on the Notice Board) have sessions in alternate weeks, with each trainee needing a full set of gear (regulator, tank & pack) for the hour in the pool.

Timetable for the Remainder of the Course:

Wednesday, 23-6-71. no lecture, Baths session for Group B.  
 Thursday, 24-6-71, 6.30pm, Lecture on Resuscitation by Dr. Adair.  
 Wednesday, 30-6-71, 7pm, Lecture by Roger Grace, Baths session for Group A.  
 Wednesday, 7-7-71, (during Mid-Term Break), Baths session for all able to attend.  
 Wednesday, 28-7-71. Baths Test (Part 1)

The Theory Test will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 11-7-74, in the Botany Theatre, & the Bath Tests will be followed by the Sea Tests, at dates to be arranged.

Diving during Mid-Term Break.  
\*\*\*\*\*

A boat has been booked for 1-day trips to Rakino & the Noisies, on Tuesday 6th July & Thursday 8th July, leaving Auckland at 8am & returning 5pm. The charge will be \$80, divided between 20 (or fewer) divers. Consult the Notice-Board for details.

If enough people are interested, we might arrange a 48-hour diving trip to the Great Barrier Island. The boat would cost \$200, for up to 12 divers.

Club Library.

As was mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the Club has begun to operate its own library, by courtesy of the Biological Librarian. Copies of "Skindiver", & of "DIVE South Pacific", provided by the Club, are on display in the Biological Library; & Club members may borrow books from our collection, by applying to the staff of the Biological Library. Members are invited to loan (or give) books of diving interest for the Club's collection: books loaned for the collection may be retrieved by the owner at any time. The collection at present contains the following books:

Anthony Alpers, "A Book of Dolphins", John Murray, 1962.

A delightful popular account of dolphins & Man - detailed account of Opo.

George F. Bass, "Archeology Under Water", Penguin, 1970.

The techniques of underwater archeology, by a major innovator in that field.

Lloyd Bridges, "Mask & Flippers", W. H. Allen, 1961.

A popular account of underwater adventure.

Philippe Diolè, "The Underwater Adventure", Sidgwick & Jackson, 1953. A lyrical & poetic account of diving, by one of the earliest writers to use aqualungs.

Philippe Diolè, "The Seas of Sicily", Sidgwick & Jackson, 1954.

A personal & introspective book, on diving around Sicily.

Arthur C. Clarke, "The Deep Range", Pan, 1968.

A remarkable novel, about whale-farming next century.

Jacques Cousteau, "The Living Sea", Hamish Hamilton, 1963.

What need be said about any book by Cousteau, except "Read it!"?

H. E. Dobbs, "Underwater Swimming", Collins, 1961. A comprehensive guide, slightly dated.

Frederick Dumas, "Deep-Water Archeology", RKP, 1964.

A technical account, by one of Cousteau's major colleagues.

Robert Gibbins, "Blue Angels & Whales", Dent, 1947. Remarkable underwater paintings & drawings of life in coral reefs. First published in the 1930's.

C. P. Idyll, "The Abyss", Constable, 1965. A layman's guide to deep-water life.

Margaret A. Leslie, "Animals of the Rocky Shore of NZ", Reed, 1968. A useful guide.

Barry Lines, "Downunder", Horwitz, 1970. A detailed guide to diving around Australia, with fine colour photographs, & useful advice on underwater photography.

Arthur W. Parrott, "The Queer & the Rare Fishes of NZ", H&S, 1960. Title describes it.

Robert E. Schroeder, "Something Rich & Strange", Allen & Unwin, 1967. Diving in the Caribbean, by one of the first zoologists to practise night diving.

Vselovod Romanovsky, "Conquest of the Deep", Studio Vista, 1965. A comprehensive account.

Olaf Ruhen, "Tangaroa's Godchild", Macdonald, 1962. A lyrical & rhapsodic account of the author's early life, with the Dunedin sea shore as the dominant influence on him.

T. J. Waldron & J. Gleason, "The Frogmen", Evans, 1970.

Leo Zanelli (editor), "Underwater Swimming", Kaye & Ward, 1969. A comprehensive technical guide to SCUBA diving, produced by the British Sub-Aqua Club.

We will soon add to our collection, three superlatively illustrated books about diving in Australian waters.