

FLOTSAM

June '74

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MON. 24 June

Botany Common Room

7.30 pm.

YOUR chance to elect the committee You want, and have a say in how the club is run.

Nominations are required for Club President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee (6)

Stop complaining about what the club is or is not doing and get yourself elected to the committee.

Supper - solid and liquid refreshment provided (hic).

CLUB TRIPS

To date these have been rare occurrences, partly because of preoccupation of committee members with Tournament organisation. As a result the first club trip came about in the May holidays but was nothing short of ~~disasterous~~ disasterous. The trips to the Poor Knights were cancelled because of bad weather, and shore diving was impossible because of the large amount of rain runoff.

I apologise to anyone who arrived at Sandy Bay to find the camp dismantled, and hope you appreciate the circumstances.

Day trips to Leigh will be organised for some weekends, but there is nothing to stop any member from leaving a note on the notice board to say they are going diving, and drum up support.

Below is a list of offshore boat trips planned for the rest of the year. Some additions and changes may be made.

Monday 8th July	Poor Knights, "Matira"
Tuesday 9th July	" " (? night dive ie. afternoon + early evening)
Thursday 25th July	Anywhere in Hauraki Gulf, "Westpoint"
Tuesday 6th August	" " "
Sunday 18th August	Poor Knights, "Matira"
Wednesday 28th August	Alderman Is./Mercury Is. "Whai"
Thursday 29th August	" "
Wednesday 20th November	" "
Thursday 21st November	" "

— M.P.F.

PTO.

EASTER TOURNAMENT

This year, for the first time, underwater sport was categorized as a "full sport" in the eyes of the NZUSA sporting executive. This category allows a grant for the club holding the competition, recompenses participants to some degree, and allows all competitors of sufficient standard to be nominated for a blues award,

With a sizeable grant from the NZUSA sports body our club was able to host our first ever competition not based wholly on spearfishing activities. All Universities with affiliated underwater clubs attended, thus ensuring the success of the occasion.

The activities began with a slide session on Easter Thursday evening, but the tournament began in deadly earnest the following morning. This saw the "octopush" competition at Auckland Grammar School. Teams of two battled out the equivalent of underwater hockey using wooden mallets and a golf ball in about four feet of water. Obviously, the rules for such a game allow for only the fittest, strongest and most handsome team to win. Congratulations Auckland A who virtually obliterated the opposition with superb positional play, ~~and~~ a demonstration of remarkable tactical deployment, and keen perception of oponent errors.

The rest of Friday/^{was}required for recuperation and nebulous social activities.

The following day - it must have been Saturday, but I am not sure - saw nearly thirty of us at Matheson's Bay, near Leigh. The morning was spent battling the environment in a snorkel endurance test. About four buoys were positioned in the bay, and the teams of two had to race to get their gear on and snorkel round the course. At each buoy they met various problems which had to be accomplished such as raising a heavy wire cage to the surface. This required strength, fitness, and snorkelling skills such as the correct use of the buoyancy compensator. The Auckland team of Ron Vautier and John Catton demolished the opposition by carrying out all problems correctly and in the fastest time.

The afternoon saw us at Goat Island and the photography competition. The cameras were standard Nikonos Mk II without flash, and Tri X 400ASA (20 frames) was issued to every competitor. Although some had never used a camera before, the overall standard was suprisingly high with Malcolm Francis (AU) winning the individual competition.

Sunday was spent at Taketu competing in the scuba skills course. As in the snorkel endurance test, each buoy marked a particular problem to be solved before swimming on. A typical case involved a circular search for a number of bricks set at unknown distances from a buoy.

Monday saw most of us at the Knights for a dive from the "Matira" and the "Anita Bay". Although we were restricted by the weather to South Bay, this was a fitting end to a heavy and enjoyable competition. Those of us still standing survived another day's diving at the Poor Knights although the weather was deteriorating.

Phew! That was a sensible and very brief outline of the Easter competition. The success of the competition was ensured by several factors:

(1) The efficient organization by Tournament Controller David Keith Rowe. Congratulations Dave, the overall enjoyment reflected your skills.

(2) The unknown fisherman who provided us with several good snapper at Taketu. While pondering what to do for lunch, this joker draws up in his parker-craft, throws a bucket full of fish on the beach, says "Hey, you want these?", a grunt of acknowledgement from someone, and he disappears. Too cool for words. The ensuing barbecued fish, washed down with a few drinks made the day.

(3) The co-operation of Dr Ballantine and staff of the Marine laboratory in providing accomodation, cooking and photographic facilities. Dr Ballantine, the Clubs patron, has made a donation on behalf of the laboratory which will enable the club to add to its library.

(4) The support of various club members too numerable to name: the marshalls, supervisors, various organizers, cooks, the onlookers, those who provided transport.....The list doesn't seem to stop.

(5) Wine - as is usually the case, that notorious drugvalcohol broke down all barriers, and spirits were kept constantly high - so to speak.

The competition next year will be hosted by Otago, and the club must ensure a complete turnout ,i.e at least four members. Participation is essential if skindiving is to hold its place as a full blooded sport.

The club may well wish to provide financial assistance to our compotitors next year.

Good luck Otago.

Clive Evans

CLUB GEAR

The club has various types of equipment for loan or hire. Just see the Club Gear Officer Tony Harrison in the basement of the Zoology building.(Room 53 ph 74740 ext 9654). Othrewise, see Clive Evans or Dave Rowe in the Research laboratories (same location) or phone 74740 ext 203 or 698-366 or 603-348 evngs
The gear available for hire includes

- 1) Camping equipment- Tents, cookers, lanterns etc.
- 2) Boat- 12' Parker with trailer outboard. Take it where you like.
- 3) 72 cu ft tank 4) 2 DCPS 5) Nikonos flash equipment
- 6) Various other odds and ends - try us out..

Remember, this gear was bbought with your money, you may as well use it.

The weather being beautiful in Auckland, it was decided in typical Uni Club fashion that this would be a good weekend to run a sea test as well as get away from Auckland. Friday afternoon saw Fred and I in his ridiculously overloaded Min going hell for leather to endeavour to reach Hahei before the others. We arrived under overcast skies to be followed only a few minutes later by another car containing Glen, Margot and Peter. The tent somehow got built and we all hit the sack early in hopeful preparation for the next day. The next morning we were all awakened by Dave's happy, smiling face (6.30) only to find that the weather had deteriorated somewhat overnight. A fairly strong NE wind was blowing virtually rendering the whole eastern coast a write off as far as diving was concerned. Viki and Robin arrived after breakfast as did John and friends. All agreed that it was better to go and have a look at the place instead of hanging around camp. So off we trundled—only to become separated HO HO ho. O well; we ended up traversing a near vertical CLAY road only to find a private beach. However the nice people let us use their beach. Not a wasted day at all. Back at Hahei we found that the weather had calmed somewhat and sure enough on Sunday morning it was dead flat calm. A flurry of preparation saw everyone swimming through the cave at the southern end of the beach in search of clear water. The small bay round the corner held 30' viz surprisingly enough. Quite a few crays here at about 30'; most were small or soft shell. Quite a variety of fish here too—blue mao mao, leatherjacket, snapper, kingies, black angelfish zooming around over the boulder-strewn bottom. A good work-up snorkel to sort out minor problems. That afternoon (whoops) we ran the sea test. This was quite revealing—most people had big problems with their ears; some to the extent that they couldn't get off the surface. What skills they did demonstrate were on the whole OK but it appears that most need a lot more snorkelling to clear up the ear problems and get more valuable sea experience. Monday and Fred's father kindly loaned us his boat. Keeping up our policy of overloading we crammed 6 (SIX) lung divers in the dinghy and merrily sailed away—only to have the bung come out ~~mg~~ of the boat!! A few heart failures later we were once more merrily under way with that bung pushed in very tight. Viz down the coast was about 20- 25'. Each new trainee was buddied by a qualified diver and all had a great time burning up their air. With the trainees all safely back in the boat, Fred, Dave and I used up our remaining tankful (about 600psi) in the shallow water looking for crays. A dozen or so takeable(?) ones were soon in the sack. One not too nice sight on this dive was a 6 inch long blue mao mao swimming feebly with a neatly drilled spear hole in it's back—makes you sick the sort of thing some people try to spear. Everyone headed back to camp to begin the mammoth task of getting all that gear back into the cars and back to Auckland. At \$6 per ~~lx~~ head for the whole weekend no one had any complaints (O yeah?) and all enjoyed themselves. Uni Club even managed to arrange a special eclipse of the moon free of charge to club members. At the moment committee is in the throes of organising a trip at Easter (early April) to McGregor's Bay, north of Whangarei. This promises to be a mighty trip with the possibility of a boat as well as some of the best and most accessible diving Northland has to offer. The prohibiting factor will be the amount of Private transport we can find. There will be no camping or site charges so this promises to be a bonza(!) trip. Cheap too. So start thinking about the private transport you can dig up.

Cheers;

Brian Moorhead.

Quack quack

Work hard

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB.

WHO ARE WE!!

The Underwater Club is comprised of students from all faculties but has its deepest roots in the natural science faculty. This is probably because a dozen or more of these hard-core divers are engaged upon active underwater research for their theses. The current trend however, is for people from diverse backgrounds to regard skindiving as a sport without equal for interest, exhilaration and hard physical exercise.

WHAT WE DO!!

We collect together all the bods around varsity who are interested in:

- 1) Snorkelling .
- 2) SCUBA diving
- 3) Underwater photography
- 4) The seas and their protection from abuse

-and who would benefit from:

A) Club trips. During the major vacations the club runs a diving camp at one of New Zealand's superb diving areas. As well as these longer camps members are able to go on weekend dives with other members of the club.

B) Training in the use of S.C.U.B.A. (Details will be given later.)

C) N.Z.U.A. Affiliation provides members with Public Liability Insurance and the benefits of national representation.

D) Social. This year we want to get together more often. Wine & Cheeses, barbeques, underwater clean-ups, a Dive-In and pub nights are a few of the ideas so far planned.

E) Conservation & Ecology. Our new image. Active support for these issues include clean-ups, a fact finding squad, the creation of public awareness through publicity, underwater projects such as the building of artificial reefs .

HOW TO JOIN!!

Fill the form in below and hand it to a committee member at the AGM. Subs will also be payable (

KEEP AN EYE ON THE U/W CLUB NOTICEBOARD IN THE STUDENT UNION.

.....L.....
NAME:.....

ADDRESS: DURING VACATIONS:.....

..... ???.....

PHONE:.....

UNDERWATER INTERESTS ARE: (For photography, collecting, conservation, u/w competitions, marine biology, u/w projects such as reef building, fish surveys or clean-ups, just social or other.) PLEASE LIST.....

..... I WISH TO ENROL IN YOUR TRAINING PROGRAMME (PLEASE TICK).....

I HAVE/HAVE NOT HAD ANY PREVIOUS DIVING EXPERIENCE: HOW MUCH? WHAT SORT?