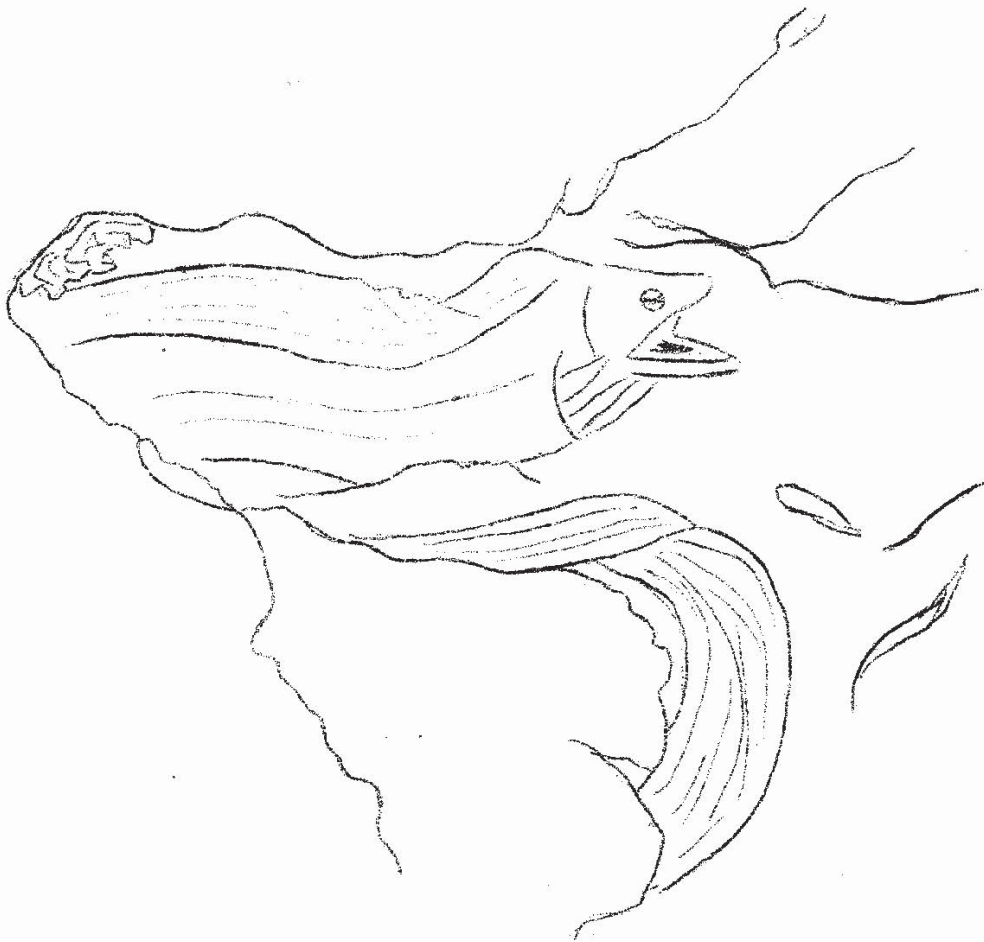


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~FLOTSAM~

AUGUST 1978.



FLOTSAM
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 1975

COVER as taken from Fishes of the New Zealand Region by Wade Doak.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

At the S.G.M. on the 30th June the following officers and committee of the Club were elected.

President	Richard Burton	493 564	
Secretary	Richard Willan	Pop 86711	
Treasurer	Robert Staverley Parker	416530	
Committee	Training	John Catton	687 064
	Trips	Paul Eaglen	466 316
	Gears	Ian Westwood	558 706
	Publicity	Nicholas Bernard	595 681
	Social	Judith Ansell	
		Grant Wallace	493 584
	Liason	Andrew Penniket	362 417
	Scientific	Richard Burton	as above

Although Ian Westwood is the Gears Officer, the Club tanks will be available from Richard Willan, Room 145, Zoology Building. Tanks must be returned to Richard filled by the following Monday (that is for weekend dives).

ITINERARY.

The following dives have been booked for the next two months, due to popular demand for trips.

August	2 & 3	Poor Knights	weekend
	17	Poor Knights	Sunday
	28 & 29	Poor Knights	Thurs. and Fri. of Holidays
September	13 & 14	Mercury Islands	weekend

PHOTOCOMP.

This will be held in the Cafe on Thursday the 14th August. There will be two sections; - black & white and colour transparencies. The sections will be divided into three classes; -

- Scenic Pictorial
- Human Interest
- Natural History

Entries to Richard Willan by the 4th August. For the complete competition rules see the noticeboard.

MARINE PARKS.

For several years there have been attempts to get certain areas, especially the Poor Knights and Goat Island classified as Marine Parks. So far, attempts have met with promises of 'soon', but as yet to my knowledge none have been finalised. Even now it may be too late to preserve these areas in their natural state. Much of the black coral has been taken from the 'Knights, and Leigh is rapidly becoming a marine desert under the influence of indiscriminate spearing. Those who were there will remember the incident when one guy drew up in his boat with about 14 speared moki in it. This kind of pressure rapidly depletes stock which will take many years to come back.

Recently it came to my notice that the ARA is investigating the establishment of marine parks around the Auckland region. These will be mainly small, and adjacent to regional parks to make enforcement easier. The idea is to prohibit the spearing of reef fish, and possibly fishing and netting in some areas. While the legal problems will be much easier under the Marine Reserves Act, the idea has met with considerable political opposition from the politicians not environmentally conscious. To convince them of the importance of the parks will need considerable public pressure. With this in mind, I have written to the Minister of the Environment calling for the establishment of these parks; and could all members who are interested please do likewise.

Richard Burton
(Scientific Officer.)

POOR KNIGHT 5th & 6th July

Seventeen divers left on board the Matira in somewhat windy and rough conditions and the trip out to the Knight's saw many a diver who had dined too well the night before hanging over the side of the boat. Once out in the shelter of the islands the sea was considerably calmer and the day was spent anchored above the Landing Bay Pinnacle.

Water visibility was not particularly good and limited to about 40 ft. A number of people were having their first introduction to the Knight's and although better weather would have made things more pleasant, a good time was had by all.

Practice was gained by some people in retrieving lost weight belts and after having brought it up from 90 ft nearly to the surface the belt broke.... Just as well there wasn't a diver wearing it when it did break.

The trip back was just as rough as the one out and it was an exhausted lot of divers who arrived back at Matapouri and Sandy Bay.

The next day the wind had increased and diving was off for the Sunday much to the dismay of those who had travelled up especially for the Sunday trip - such are the problems of winter diving.

Robert Staverley Parker.

WINE & CHEESE 18th July

Most people would agree that this function was a great success. A lot of work was put in by various committee members in telephoning through the Club list and in making arrangements.

In the end we decided to cater for seventy people and by 9-15 a rough head count showed 120. A quick dash to the Intercontinental depleted their supplies of white wine and set the staff muttering about "those University students." Great ingenuity was shown in using the coffee urn as a punch bowl and Judith's punch won applause all round. Radio Bosom closed down at about 12-30 and only the mess was left to be cleared up by a few willing helpers. Next day a count of broken glass gave a breakage rate of 30% "Quite a party!" was the comment when survivors were returned.

Overall a small loss was made but it was well worth it and for those that didn't make it this time - see you at the next one.

Robert Staverley Parker.

LAKE PUPUKE DIVE

Nine hardy soles arrived at 3-00pm on the banks of the lake for a freshwater dive on Saturday 19th July. For many of us it was the first time we had dived in fresh water. Half of us were hoping the chilly water would be a sobering effect from the previous night's Wine and Cheese festivities. Odd sunny patches broke the drizzle, but not sufficiently to dispel the icy blasts as we geared up for the dive.

We were suitably sobered by the announcement that the water temperature was 13.4° C. As if we had decided against the dive at the last minute, we posed on the jetty while our trusty cameraman snapped away. The shots were for publicity, the dive was being covered by a local newspaper, a reporter was writing an article about the club and its activities. Then like victims of a firing squad we peeled into the water one after the other. I think the most sensible divers were those who had colds and watched us from the banks.

Once the initial cold trickles had permeated our wet suits we were able to take some notice of the surroundings. Visibility was reasonable (8 feet) and there were quite a number of interesting things to discover. Because of the lack of waves or tidal currents buoyancy could be adjusted perfectly, we hung motionless over the tips of the long green blades of submerged weeds. A flick of a flipper would thrust you in any direction - true weightlessness. Some of the weeds grew 10 feet high and were so thick as to be quite impenetrable near their muddy bases. We sighted a few small fish, but none of the big carp that the young fishermen had been catching from the wharf using aniseed as an attractant.

Half an hour later most of us had had enough chilling for one day and we were content to surface and leave the lake to the swans. From the conversation on the banks it seemed that everyone felt the dive had been worthwhile, if only to compare the vastly different physical conditions and life forms encountered in lakes with the more familiar ones of the sea.

We rounded the day off with welcome cups of hot soup and wine that had been left over from the previous night - the wine that is. All were satisfied with the dive and cheered by the prospect of not having any salty gear to wash.

Richard Willan.

FIRST MONTHLY MEETING

Up until now there has been a shortage of opportunities for club members to meet other members other than on diving trips, so we are now going to organize monthly meetings with talks, films, slides and accounts of trips. These should provide a chance for members to meet and generally have a good time.

The first meeting is on the 30th July at 7-30 in Room 202 at the top of the Student Building. There will be some films shown and wine and beer will be available.

SEE YOU THERE.

The trailer for the boat has been overhauled and now has a current warrant of fitness. Members feel free to use the boat which is based at the Leigh Marine Research Lab.

GUIDE TO N.Z.'s UNDERWATER WORLD

Wade and Jan Doak are now producing this new publication.

Issues are 1-50 each or 3-00 p.a. (4 issues a year).

For subscriptions write to:-

P.O. Box 20,
Whangarei.

A.U.U.C. will be subscribing to this for the Winston Memorial Library.

BOOKING FORM

AFTER FINALS CAMP AND CHARTER OF THE

" ATARUA "

Mark below the dates you wish to go out on the "Atarua". If you go down with the boat you must also return on it. It leaves on Monday night and returns Sunday night, so mark TUESDAY and SUNDAY below. The other four days are single day charters limited to 15-16 divers per day out. You may attend all or some of the days. It may be necessary to limit the number of days any one person may dive from the "Atarua".

All bookings will be confirmed and final dates posted between 10th October and 10th November.

DATES	TUES 18	WED 19	THURS 20	FRI 21	SAT 22	SUN 23
TICK HERE						
COST PER DAY	\$11	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$6	\$11
CARRIED DAY						

TOTAL \$

All money must be returned with this form by the 10th October to:-

Grant Wallace,
63 Anzac Street,
Takapuna,
Auckland 9 (Ph. 493 584)

(REGISTER ALL CASH)

With all bookings it will be a case of first in first served. (Money not phone calls talk in this respect).

Accommodation Tents ____ Cabins ____

First dates you require accommodation _____

Food - arrange own _____ Arranged for _____

Transport required yes _____ No _____

How many can you take _____

Can you tow a boat or trailer _____