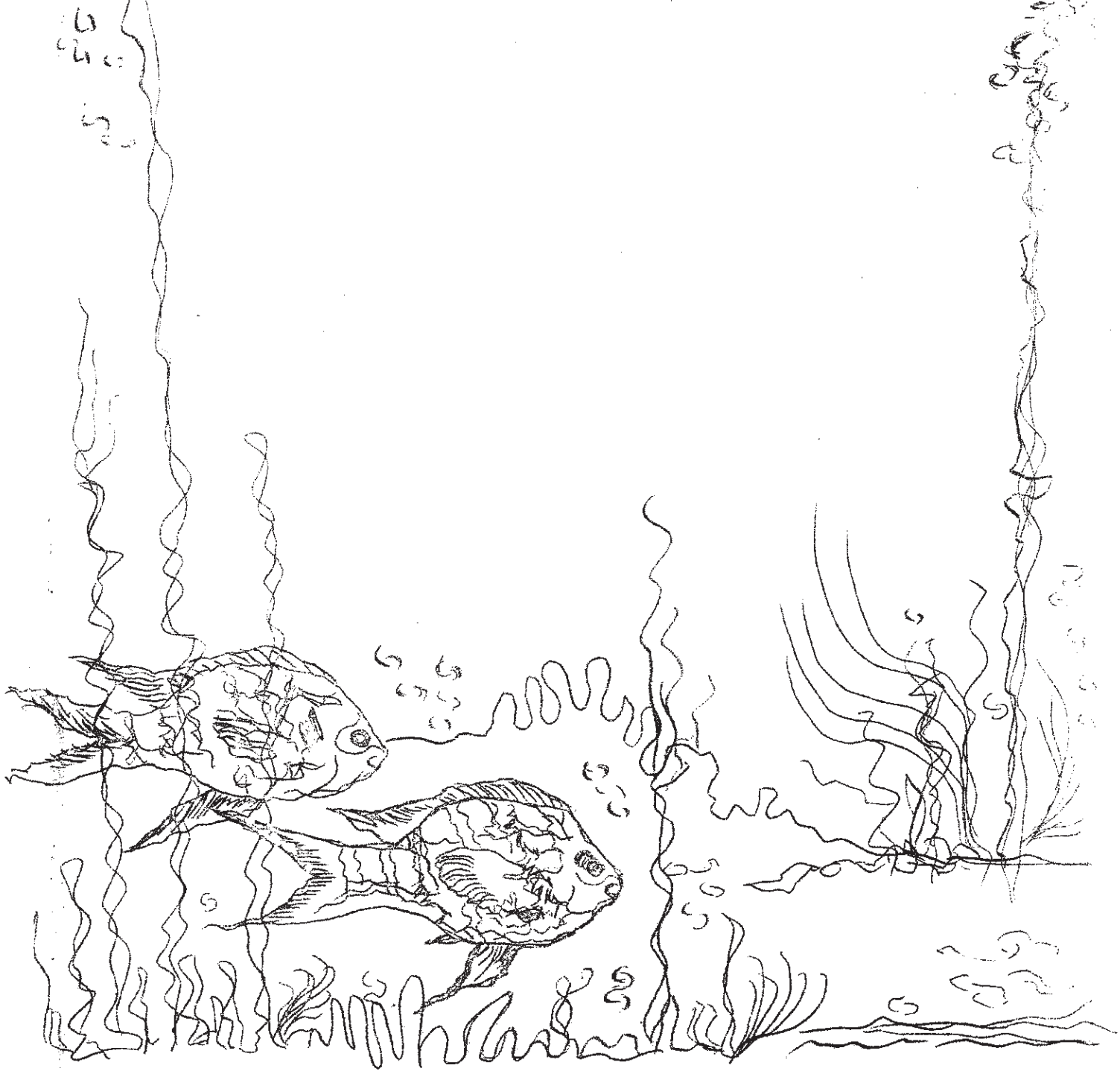


June 1975.

# FLOTSAM



FLOTSAM  
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 1975

COVER designed!!? by your very own Editor (ie.ME) which explains an awful lot (emphasis on awful!) This is my last issue of Flotsam - so bonsoeur mes enfants

REPORT ON 1975 N.Z.U.A. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

During Queens Birthday Weekend about 100 delegates from about half the underwater clubs in N.Z. gathered in quaint old cold Dunedin to haggle over matters of concern to divers. John Catton and I represented A.U. U.C. Since each club member pays an affiliation fee of \$2 to N.Z.U.A. we felt we ought to have our share in deciding what is done with all that money we have been sending them.

We put forward two remits to the meeting aimed at promoting more extensive and more equitable representation of clubs at A.G.M.'s. Both these remits were heavily defeated, to the accompaniment of the sound of bombs landing, courtesy of one well-known Wellington spearo.

However our two recommendations to N.Z.U.A. were both passed. One was concerned with getting the Scientific Subcommittee of N.Z.U.A. more involved in the establishment of Marine Reserves, and the other with the return of marked examination papers to candidates for Higher Scuba Proficiency Qualification. There was considerable dissatisfaction expressed particularly by delegates from various Auckland clubs, with the activities of the Training Subcommittee, and partly as a result of John's questions and comments we can hope for some improvement in this area.

All A.U.U.C. members should be receiving from time to time the N.Z.U.A. Bulletin. If there is something they are doing, or not doing, that you are concerned about, talk to one of the committee members about it, and maybe we can stir up N.Z.U.A. about it at the next A.G.M., or maybe even before then.

Ron Vautier

NOTICE OF AN S.G.M. (SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING) OF A.U.U.C.

This meeting is to be held in the Botony Department Common Room (next to the Biological Sciences Library, Thomas Building) at 8 o'clock, Monday 30th June.

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate new committee members, therefore,

- nominations for
- a) President
  - b) Secretary
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Six other members of committee

will be accepted by the Secretary, Richard Willan, Room 145 Zoology Department, or any other committee member if more convenient. Nominations should contain

- a) Nominee
- b) Nominator
- c) Seconder

Nominations can also be handed in at the meeting. If you are concerned that the club doesn't end up being run by a bunch of maniacs (as is the case at present) please come to the meeting - the club needs interested and interesting people. Thankyou folks!

## DIVES FROM WHITIANGA - MAY 24th and 25th

Stormy conditions covered the country on Friday May 23rd. Returning from Dunedin that morning, my jet cut 30 minutes from its usual flight time, being boosted by a tail-wind of 160 km/h. Many divers telephoned Paul Eaglen and the skipper of the "Whai" on that Friday, to ask whether there was any chance of diving that weekend. The skipper replied that the trips could almost certainly go ahead.

On Friday night, several groups of divers drove through the heavy rain and strong winds, arriving at Peter Spurdle's baches until 1.30 am. (Those rash enough to venture over the Tapu-Coraglen road in that storm realized why the Kopu-Hikaai route is preferred by drivers!)

Saturday morning, about 18 divers were on the catamaran launch "Whai" for its departure at 8 am. Gales blowing from the south-west prevented us from getting out to the Mercuries or Aldermen, so we travelled north along the coast from Mercury Bay for an hour, anchoring near the mainland in spots sheltered from the wind.

The water was fairly warm (18°C), but visibility was very low since the storm had stirred up the silt. Large numbers of fish were seen - the usual demoiselles, blue mao-mao, leatherjackets, scorpionfish, yellowtails, black angels, marblefish, greenbone, yellow morays, snapper, sting-ray, kingfish et cetera; together with John Dory, blue cod, butterfly perch, silver drummer and red parrotfish. Crayfish were abundant but very small - most of those collected had to be returned since they were under legal size. (In fact, most of the cray fishermen at Mercury Bay have had to go out of business, after having taken all of the adult crayfish in the vicinity.)

A few people went snorkelling at a rock nearly reaching the surface a few hundred metres offshore, but the anchors couldn't hold the boat there in the rough conditions. We then went out to the spectacular stack "The Needle", about 60 m high, with two tall archways through it, but couldn't anchor there either and so we went to some rocks closer to the mainland for the day's last dive.

Some people left that evening, some arrive for Sunday's dive, and several people spent that night on board the "Whai" at the skipper's invitation. At Peter Spurdle's baches, his ginger cat gorged itself on leftovers from the cray.

The weather was much calmer on Sunday, but still too windy for us to get to the outer islands, and so we went back to the same region as on Saturday. On this occasion, however, we managed to anchor near the Needle and go diving through the archways and down the steep flanks of the stack, to the seabed at 32 m. There we saw a fishing line being used from the "Whai" by one of the skipper's sons. My buddy rashly jerked the line near the hook to startle the boy, but then he had to go through some energetic contortions to remove the hook from his glove. After that edifying incident we started to move away, but I found that a hook from the other boy's line had pierced neatly through the mouthpiece of my bouyancy compensator. Luckily I managed to extricate it without incident.

**MORAL:** Always carry a knife on your dives - you never can tell when you might need it to cut yourself free from a line or net!

The skipper decided to move to a more sheltered spot, so we rounded up several divers from the water. However, the skipper moved the boat off without waiting for the roll call to be completed, and it took two or three minutes to search the several parts of the catamaran and confirm that two divers were still out. The "Whai" slowly chugged its way around the Needle, and encountered the missing pair within a minute of their coming to the surface.

To prevent such incidents from recurring, it would be very desirable for the Club to provide a Buddy-board, in the form of a formica board with lines painted on it for columns to contain the name of each diver and her/his buddy, time of departure, maximum depth reached and time of return. Each diver would be required to write in the times of arrival and departure using a crayon tied to the board.

Leaving the Needle, we returned to the mainland where we continued diving alongside those spectacular volcanic cliffs, and left in time to reach Whitianga at 5 pm.

And so, even though we couldn't get to the Mercuries or the Aldermen, the weekend's diving was quite a success. But of course, this could hardly be compared to the diving we would experience, if more trips could be arranged to the Poor Knights ...

Garry J. Tee

(Trip to the Poor Knights coming up during Mid-Term Break...)

### CAMERA REPAIRS

For those club members who take underwater photos, it is important to remember that at any time your camera or light-meter may flood and be ruined.

If your camera leaks remove it from the water and wash out with freshwater immediately. Strip the camera down as far as possible and run under a tap, working the shutter, aperture controls, speed control, etc. at the same time. It is salt which causes the damage, not the water. The camera can then be dried out in a cool place until you can get to a camera repair shop. It is possible to fill the camera and case with alcohol - this absorbs the water and then evaporates to leave the camera dry. Alcohol may damage the rubber 'O' rings so have them replaced if necessary afterwards. Light meters are the same - Sekonic meters can be unscrewed from the base, washed and dried. Mine once started working again after two days in a hot-water cupboard.

After your first aid treatment, take your gear to a repair shop to have it reset and checked over. These two places specialise in Nikon cameras,

J. Samson  
4th floor  
Windsor House  
Queen Street (between Fort  
and Customs Street)

G. Schmidt  
MicroTechnic Specialist Ltd,  
Dingwall Building  
Queen Street (exactly opposite  
Samson's place)

Samson also zeros and checks the calibration of light meters free, and Schmidt probably would if you talked German fast enough.

Prevention is better than cure - grease all 'O' rings carefully before you dive. Remove sand and cotton which prevent a seal. After several uses wipe all the grease and water off with a clean rag and re-grease. Don't be shy with the grease - tubes are much cheaper than camera overhauls.

Malcolm Francis

WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE

8 o'clock

18th July

Upper Common Room - Students Association Building.

Admission \$1

SELL TICKETS  
SELL TICKETS  
SELL TICKETS  
BUY TICKETS  
BUY TICKETS  
BUY TICKETS

WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE EVENING WINE & CHEESE