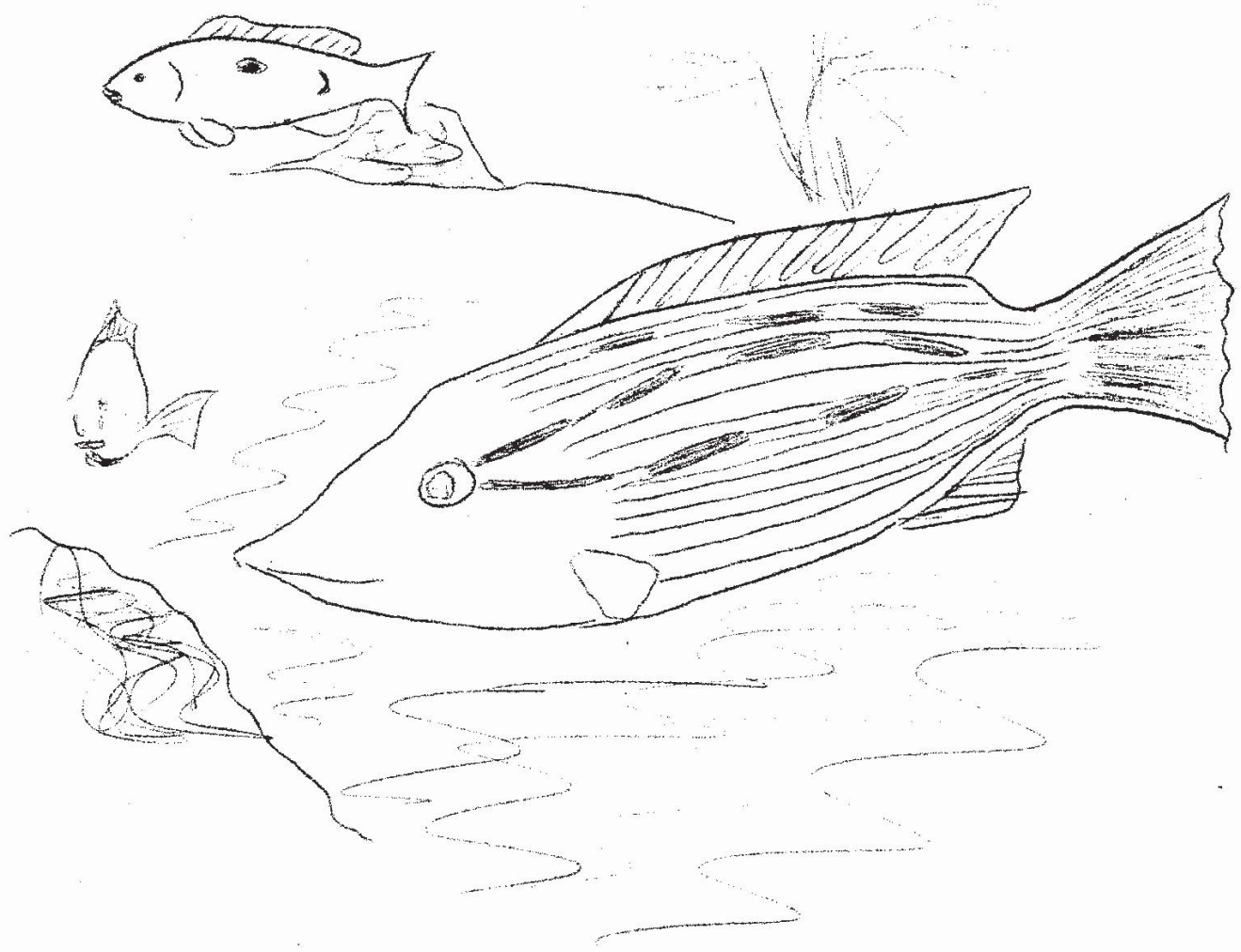


~ FLOTSAM ~

SEPTEMBER 1976



FLOTSAM

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB

POOR KNIGHTS, 17th August.

A slightly overcast day with only a moderate swell greeted us as we arrived at the wharf at Tutakaka.

We made the trip out in the Lady Jess which is the most comfortable boat I've been on yet.

After a quick debate we decided to have the first dive at Taravana Cave which is just south of Middle Arch. As we were dropping the anchor a school of dolphins surfaced and swam along the cliff face. Some of us attempted to follow them to get a closer look, we never did see them from the water and only managed to thoroughly exhaust ourselves.

After lunch we moved on to Nursery Cove where some of the party did a bit of snorkelling. We then moved around to the entrance to Riko Riko Cave where we dived on the northern side of the cave. Visibility was around 40' to 50' which isn't too bad for this time of year. Many of us moved along a large overhanging shelf which was covered with marine growths of all types and colours. There were not a great many fish about, being mainly restricted to leatherjackets, mao mao and a few Sandagers parrotfish.

After the dive we did a quick trip into the cave in the boat and the headed for home.

Nicholas Bernard.

POOR KNIGHTS, 28th & 29th August.

Thursday dawned with a strong NW wind promising an exciting ride out to the Poor Knights, however the ride proved to be rather too exciting and much to the relief of several diver's stomachs we returned back hoping for less turbulent seas' on Friday. Determined not to waste a day, groups of divers set off looking for some quiet sheltered diving spots. Three locations were tried:- Wananaki, Matapouri Bay and Wellington's Bay, but results were poor with only 6 to 12' visibility and little to see. That the sleeping quarters were dispersed over a wide area due to the inavailability of accomodation. Five of us managed to squeeze into a cabin at Ngaurahu while others stayed at Whangerai.

Friday looked more hopeful with clear skies and only a moderate swell, which increased in size towards the islands, and not a few diver's stomachs were complaining by the time shelter in South Harbour was found. Twelve divers explored this area, with visibility at about 60' with a great abundance of fish life, especially Sandagers parrotfish who seem to associate the picking up of sea eggs with food and they impatiently hammered on the shells expecting us to break them open.

The tunnel was full of a school of blue mao mao, and the walls were covered with sponges. The light coming through a side tunnel makes this the most impressive sight at the Knights. For the second dive we went to Hope Point where the water was clearer and the bubble cave, the centre of attraction was found at 30' and we found the air quite breathable if a bit stuffy.

Had an interesting time finding some fish, in particular a large grandady Hapuka and a friendly moray eel who had bad table manners, putting his whole head into the sea eggs.

With all the divers aboard by 3pm we set off into a fresh NE wind with a large swell while some relished in the rough seas drinking coffee in the stuffy cabin others decided that flying to the Knights or going by submarine would be a lot less painful in the future.

Richard Burton.

YET ANOTHER LAKE PUPUKE DIVE

Only three divers turned up on the last Saturday of the holidays at the Canoe Club Headquarters on the shores of Lake Pupuke, others presumably having been put off by previous reports from our last dive of 6ft. vis and masses of water weed.

Gearing up took an unusually long time and the final plunge into the water was put off as long as possible. However, once in the water the visibility was surprisingly good at about 25ft. and it was not as cold as first anticipated. We swam straight out into the lake and at about 30ft. the weed ceased abruptly in a straight line forming a twelve foot high wall. Beyond this was a steeply sloping surface of mud and silt. Swimming down this was very deceptive and in a very short distance we were at a depth of 100ft. which it was decided was deep enough. Even here it was quite light and the torch was not needed.

The turbulence made by our fins had triggered off slumps of mud that rolled down the slope as large impressive suspension clouds. The bottom is quite soft and a 3ft. stick poked into the bottom did not hit anything solid.

On the swim back, large rock bluffs and boulders from old quarrying operations were encountered and provided an interesting change. An old lead anchor was found here and with some difficulty was carried back to shore with plans of using it in making weights.

After an unsuccessful underwater attack of the underside of two inquisitive swans the dive ended having spent 45 minutes or so underwater.

Diving in the lake makes a very welcome change from sea diving, and if conditions are as good as they were this time it is a very worthwhile exercise for any diver. - So come on the next one.

M.H. Stavelcy Parker

USE OF THE CLUB BOAT & OUTBOARD

The club has just purchased a new ~~Wh~~hatsu 12 hp motor to replace the old Seagull, and with this on the Parkercraft Dinghy the diving range has been increased considerably.

The Boat/motor/trailer is for the use of all club members FREE of charge, yet certain conditions do apply.

To obtain the boat you must book it, stating the number of people going, where from and to, and when the boat will be returned. This can be done at Room 1 ~~4~~5 Zoo Building, see Richard Willan for a key. If you want it on the spur of the moment, then contact Richard Burton (493-564), Grant Wallace (493-584) or Richard Willan (POP 86-711), all of whom will have keys.

The boat will be kept at Grant Wallace's residence, 63 Anzac St. Takapuna.

It must be returned there and locked up to ensure the insurance stays valid.

The petrol tank must be returned full (with correct mixture) ready for the next user, the boat hosed down, and the motor flushed in fresh water.

The club asks that good seamanship be exercised at all times with regard to the distance of travel, number of people, forecasting sea and wind conditions and familiarity with the boat. As a guide the club suggests for safety a maximum of -

- 4 people and snorkel gear
- 3 people and 1 tank each
- 2 people and 2 tanks each

The club cannot afford to have this valuable asset abused and any member found doing so will be barred from using it. Please report, as soon as possible, any damage to one of the committee members.

N.B. Tie the boat down securely to avoid damage in transit.

Suggested dive places include - Tiri Island, Leigh, Rangitoto Island, Bays on the East Coast, and possibly around Kawasi Island.

DIVE TRIP AFTER FINALS

The Atarua has been booked from Monday 17th November to Sunday 23rd November. The boat will leave the Wade River at approx 6 p.m. on Monday night and steam overnight to a dive location (to be determined by the weather) on Great Barrier Island by early Tuesday morning. A second dive is envisaged on the South end of Great Barrier or at the Mercuries later that day. The boat will continue overnight to Whitianga to meet other members of the Club who have travelled there by car, and will either be camping or in Pete Spurdle's cabins. From Wednesday until Saturday night the boat will be used for 1 day trips to either the Aldenuar or Mercury Islands. On Saturday night the Atarua leaves Whitianga on its final trip back to the Wade River, having two dives on the way on Sunday and arriving back sometime on Sunday evening.

The cost of the overnight trips to and from Whitianga to Wade River will be \$11 per head and only 10 divers can be catered for.

The single day trips will cost \$6 per head for 15-16 divers.

Depending upon your feelings we will either be camping under canvas during the week at Whitianga and/or using cabins. The cabin will cost \$1.50 per head per night.

Because of the necessity to arrange everything well in advance, we must have all the details from each person travelling and diving on this trip. If a number of people do decide to use the club's gear and camp, its transportation must be considered - for this purpose a trailer is available as long as we have a car to tow it.

Also the club boat will be available for this time (with the new motor) so don't be worried about diving from the Atarua for only a few days.

Bookings will be taken by mail (or personal delivery) to Grant Wallace 63 Anzac St., Takapuna, and must contain ALL the money for the dives booked, and be received by Grant before 10th October.

Since many will want to dive a few of the days booked, your cooperation in matters of organisation will be greatly appreciated.