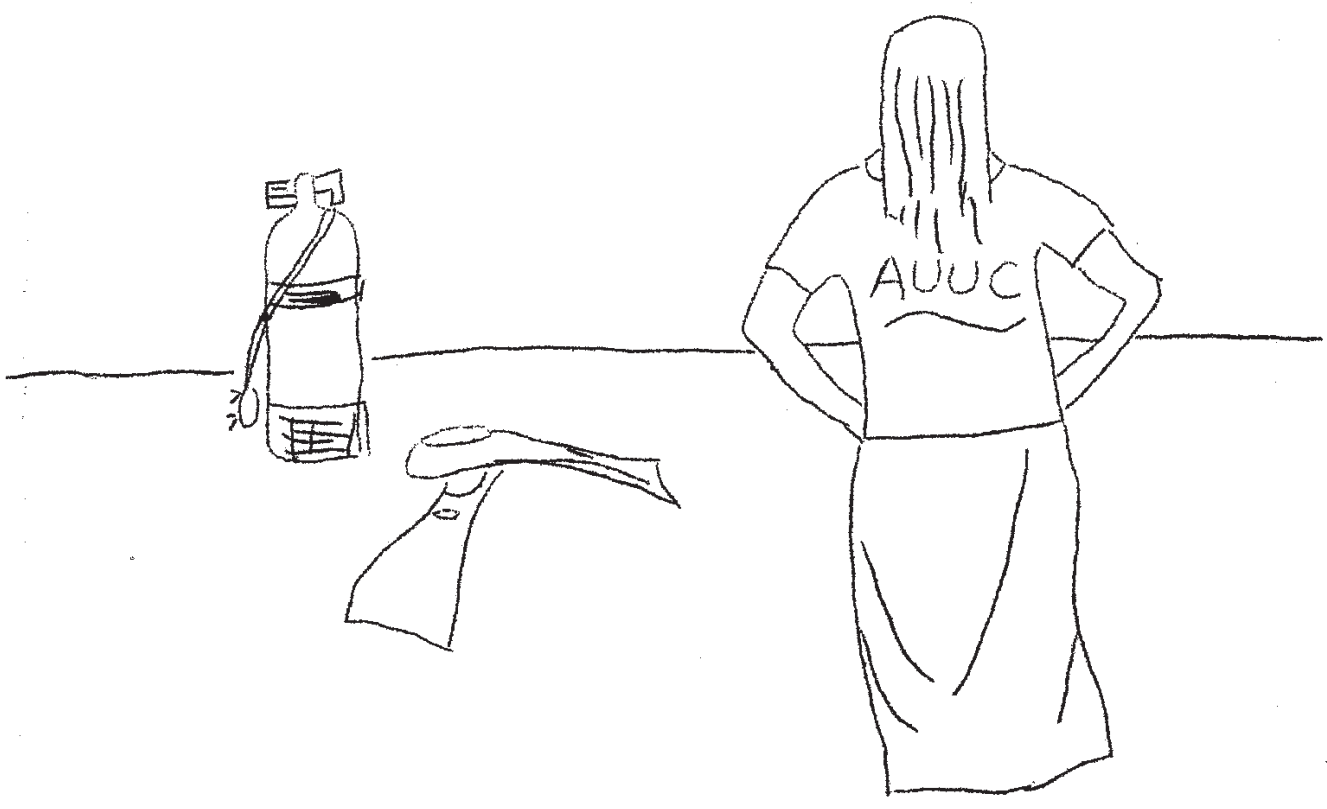
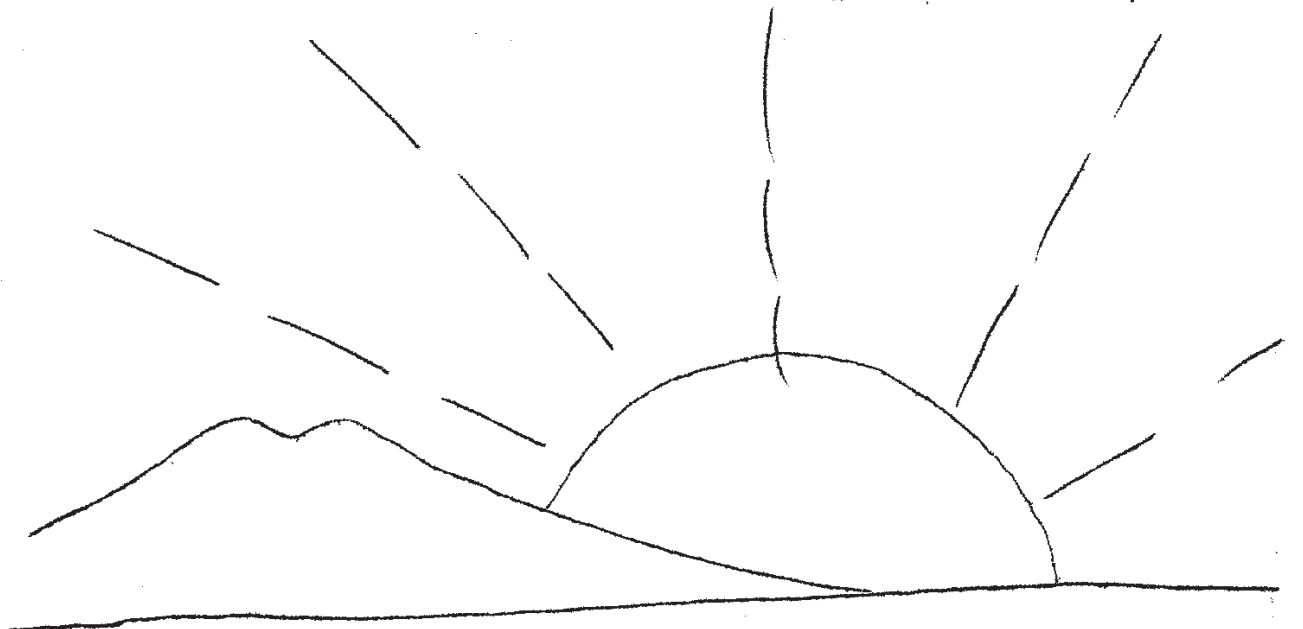


~ FLOTSAM ~

MARCH 1976



March 1976

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB

OUR CLUB

AUUC is one of the largest clubs at Auckland University and is about the third largest diving club in NZ. We are fully affiliated with NZUA which is itself affiliated with the world organisation AMSM.

Our basic aims are to enable any person with an interest in diving to be able to dive in a club with experienced divers. We have two training courses; a snorkel course for first time divers and a more advanced scuba diving course for people with some previous diving experience or at least a good water knowledge.

John Cattan will run both courses this year. He is a good instructor and does a great job.

Anyone who is interested in doing the diving courses should come to the AGM in B15 on the 8th March at 7.30 p.m. For advanced training NZUA runs courses at Advanced, 1st Class and Instructor levels.

The club has a strong environmental slant and is probably the most ecologically active underwater club in NZ.

We have laid down rules regarding our club attitude to spearfishing. It is really upsetting to see a diver coming out of the water with a boat load of maki which are territorial reef fish, so an area can soon be depleted. Some types of fish e.g. kingfish, snapper, have no territory so are free roaming or pelagic. Those fish provide both sport and food while spearing them has only minimal effect on the ecosystem.

Well apart from diving and the environment, the club still has plenty of time to partake in pursuits such as wine and cheese dances, monthly socials, raving beach barbeques and the odd capping stunt. These are great for meeting other divers and for arranging private dives.

The club runs frequent dives to offshore islands principally the Poor Knights, off Tutukaka and the Mercury Is and Alderman Is off Whitianga. These offer very clear water up to 120' and a surprising array of fish life. We plan to run three Knights dives this term so watch the notice board as well as the pre-dive meetings are held 10 days before the dive.

Sports dives are promoted each year in the two tournaments held by the Universities and by the New Zealand Underwater Association. The Varsityes Easter Tournament this year held at Otago features competition in Octopush, Photography and Scuba Skills. We hope to send at least one team, so anyone interested should contact a committee member. The NZUA Tournament features photography, scuba skills and spearfishing. We boycott the spearfishing competition each year, but hope to get a few keen divers to enter the other two events.

Anyway, all club information is pinned on the noticeboard in the quad so if you want a dive, a dance or some gear, keep your eyes glued to the noticeboard and see you at the AGM.

RICHARD BURTON
President

AFTER FINALS TRIP 1975
OR HOW TO MIX SAILING SMALL CHILDREN AND DIVING

From the very beginning there was a problem: no, apart from the organisers, there was a terrible set back right from the word go.

Initially we were booked on the Atarua - a fine ship so we've all been told, but this was not to be - having had some disappointments with chartering; the skipper then decided to keep his boat to his self so the great 1975 After Finals Trip was without one of those funny floating things with a sharp end at the front.

As usual, when the chips are down (and often their trousers) the club committee saved the day - with special thanks to a swift thinking sea-going committee type. To let the truth be told we suddenly found ourselves blessed by the presence of a very large concrete floating footpath (as it is known in the trade) - none other than the well-famed Red Highlander!

Yes, you may well ask - What is THE RED HIGHLANDER?

Well! There is this very large mast near the middle and one not so large at the back - and the rest is red with a total length over 53 feet.

We first met her at the wharf where we loaded gear aboard for more than an hour - only to find it disappear immediately into the numerous spacious lockers below. After casting off from Stanley Point Wharf at about 9.30 on Monday night we motored quietly round North Head and headed for the Barrier just as the light began to fade. All six of us were amazed to find that while we were getting stuck into the skipper's beer his wife was providing us with sizzling T-bone steaks, onions, creamed potatoes, beans and salad, - and someone said it was a bring-your-own-food dive!

The Red Highlander does about 8 knots so by midnight we were half way to Whangaparapara - most of our leisurely crew sleeping it off below with only the real hardy seafaring types up on deck trying to understand compass bearings.

Seeing it is about 10.30 p.m. on the night before this thing gets typed, I suppose I had better give you unlucky holiday workers some idea of the diving.

DAY 1. Pidgeon Rocks at the Barrier, Tryphena Harbour

Someone - managed to miss a kingi from about 1 foot with his speargun while it was cruising under the wharf - he obviously had his mind on the organising of the trip! - the poor overworked lad.*

* Co-Organiser's note "Bull__t".

That night we left Tryphena at about 7.30 p.m. and literally set sail for the Mercury Islands - except for a small mishap when that hard working lad was foolish enough to climb the mast to free the jib halyard. Once again we had a habit of arriving a little late - 3 a.m. once again! Still - there's plenty of parking on the wharf with nobody to tell us where to go. Funny that -

Suddenly, at 5.30 in the morning!

There was this b___y great sand barge nearly alongside - we felt like a bicycle parked at a bus stop. How often have you had to move your bicycle at 5.30 in the morning after a hard night?*

* C.O. again "About as often as he had to get up and go home probably!"

On Wednesday - that's Day 2 - a couple of club members met us at the wharf and joined us on our merry chase on a glassy sea under a deep blue sky. The first dive led us to the depths of Whale Rock - looking for crays - perhaps we'll find some tomorrow. Opito Bay supported the crew with its usual abundance of scallops and we spent nearly all the trip back cleaning them - quite large ones - about 2 to a bucket.

How about 20?

You will be pleased to know this is the first of many long tales from 1975 Trips Committee - and just a part of a glorious After Finals Trip.

The club and most definitely all those who attended give the greatest thanks to:- Skipper Joe Leith
his wife Jill
and last - and hopefully least, Sam

P.S. - You'll hear about her in the next Flotsam.

CALENDAR 1976

FIRST TERM SOCIAL EVENTS

Monday March 8th Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m. - B15 (Basement Library Building). Enrolments will be taken at the meeting. The cost is \$5.00. Please have enrolment form as well.

Training Course Information on this course will be given at the AGM. If you are interested the cost is \$15.00, to be paid at the AGM. To round up the evening there will be a 25 mm film "Coral Jungle".

Wednesday March 10th Wine and Cheese Evening 8.00 p.m. Top Common Room (2nd Floor above Book Shop). Wine, Beer and Cheese will be available. Admission of \$2.00 per person covers the cost of all food and drink.

Monday April 24th NZUA Ball \$12.00 per person. See Richard Willan Room 154, Zoology Building.

Diving Trips

<u>To the Poor Knights</u>	11, 19 April
<u>on Lady Jess</u>	22 and 23rd May
	14 and 15 August
	4 and 5 September
<u>On the Whai to the</u>	5, 16 July
<u>Mercuries, Aldermans</u>	16 and 17 August
	1, 2 and 3 December

Meetings concerning trips will be held 10 days to 2 weeks before each trip. At the meeting the trips will be prepaid. The cost of trips will total \$12.50. \$7.50 for the boat charter (per day). \$2.50 each way for transport (this will get paid to drivers by the club). It is stressed the trips will be prepaid - NO MONEY, NO TRIP.

Easter Weekend NZUA Diving Tournament Photographic, Scuba skills and spearfishing competitions. AUUC will boycott the spearfishing. Any members interested in competing please contact the club committee.
- Bay of Islands

Inter University Host University is Otago. Photographic, Scuba skills and Octopush (Underwater Hockey). Any members interested in competing please contact the club committee.
Championship