

Brian

FLOTSAM

APRIL '82



COMMITTEE 1982

President	:	Ewan Grant-Mackie	768779
Vice President	:	Brian Dobson	768391
Secretary	:	Frith van Lier	796609
Treasurer	:	Michelle Kelly	732859
Publications	:	Malia Soo Choon	796609
Gears Officer	:	Andrew Hofer	501329
Training	:	Terry Brailesford	687861
Social Officer	:	Chris Kitson	760891
Trips Officer	:	Michael Coombe	596648
Scientific Officer	:	Laurie Franks	667836
Sports Representative	:	Grant Daniel	487017
Publicity	:	Michael Bhana	581296
Remaining Committee Members :			498407
		Melvin Collins	
		Julie Dyer	771041
		Raoul Fenelon	600166
		Mark Meekan	2638240
		Terry van der Hoeven	8344966
		Kyrstie Webb	732369

This year the Underwater Club is undertaking the organising of the photo-competition. Information about this will be posted up on the noticeboard and for any further inquiries contact Brian Dobson (photographic officer).

PRESIDENT'S BLURB

This is the official welcome of the Auckland University Underwater Club, so..... Hi!

You are a member of one of the most diverse clubs on campus, with 160 members and still rising, ranging from Engineering Intermediates to M.Sc's (plus all the others in between). We all have a common interest: diving, and as such, our club is going to help you.

I see the club not only as an apparatus for good, cheap diving, but more importantly, as one way for many different types of people to get together and make friends. Back in 1961 that is exactly what some people did; they formed the A.U.U.C.. Now, 21 years later, we are celebrating the club's inauguration by making 1982 the best year of all for the club.

We have a great little committee, but your support as a club-member is vital. You must know what is happening, either through club meetings, noticeboards, Flotsams, or by contacting committee members. The way to get your money's worth from the club is to become involved in your club.

It is really good to see so many old battered faces from last year complementing and assisting the new ones. I hope you all have a great year, diving and study-wise, and I look forward to blowing bubbles (of one sort or another) with all of you.

Ewan Grant-Mackie

CLUB GEAR

Below is a list of gear which the club owns and is available to members upon presentation of their membership card. It is advisable to book in advance for the gear by ringing Andrew Hofer, ph. 501-329.

Camping Equipment

- 2 Large tents (20-man capacity)
- 2 Small tents (2-man type & one of them leaks)
- 1 5 litre CNG bottle (new)
- 1 Gas lamp (new)
- 1 Primus two-rung gas cooker (new)
- 2 Large ground sheets
- 1 'Go' portaloos - collapsable type
- 2 Kerosene burners (very rusty)
- 2 Hurricane lamps (very rusty)
- 6 Pots & associated utensils
- 1 5 gallon plastic water container
- 1 Kerosene container

Dive Gear

- 2 72 cu.ft. tanks
- 1 12 ft. Starcraft boat, powered by a 9.9 HP Johnson outboard
- 1 Trailer equipped with lights for the above said boat

The club boat will only be lent out to responsible-looking members (i.e. those who have had previous small boat experience). You must book ahead for the boat by ringing the number above.

TRIPS '82

In addition to the Freshers camp and Terry Brailesford's trips, the Underwater Club is offering 5 boat trips away this year. These are:-

1. GREAT BARRIER - (vessel: "La Morna") 8th - 11th May. We will be departing on the evening of Friday 7th. Cost \$100 plus air. (10 divers)
2. GREAT BARRIER - (vessel: "Pegasus II") 5th - 6th June. We will be departing on the evening of Friday 4th. Cost \$55 plus air. (16 divers)
3. ALDERMANS - (vessel: "Taranui") 5th - 6th July. This trip is during mid-term break, and we will be departing on the afternoon of the 4th. Cost \$65 approx. plus air. (10 divers)
4. GREAT BARRIER - (vessel: "Pegasus II") 7th - 8th August. We will be departing on the evening of Friday 6th. Cost \$55 plus air. (10 divers)
5. POOR KNIGHTS - (vessel: "Lady Jess") 18th - 19th September. We will be departing early on the evening of Friday 17th. This trip consists of two 1-day trips to the Poor Knights. Cost approx. \$65 plus air. (12 divers)

The prices are all inclusive (accommodation and transport where applicable have been included) for boat charter and food. Air has not been included. Owing to the considerable interest shown in the POOR KNIGHTS trip there may be a second trip after exams but before Christmas this year. If numbers permit there is a possibility for an extended boat trip to WHITE ISLAND (possibly N.Z.'s best dive spot) late in the year or early in 1983. These trips are filling very quickly - so don't miss out on some of the best diving to be had in N.Z. at the cheapest possible prices. For more details see Michael Coombe (trips officer) at a club meeting or phone 596-648 after 6pm.

SOCIAL BIT

- Disposed to be friendly, fond of convivial intercourse; formed for the purpose of uniting in equal groups seeking diversion or sports;

Well, now you know what social means, I suppose you're wondering where all the social events are. Well, if you didn't go up to Leigh a few weeks ago, you've already missed one, but don't worry, there will probably be another after the dive course, and a good time can be had by all again.

"Write something soon or else", is what Malia told me, so here I am sucking on a beer and thinking what the hell am I going to write about! Malia said to tell you about upcoming events, so here goes. I am going to get the old grad bar (or somewhere), in the 1st or 2nd week following the May holidays. This will be a wine and cheese type thing with music and nuts and beer and chips and...etc.

There is also the annual trip to the Puhoi pub, we stay there for an hour or two, then take a 5 minute trip down the road to Wenderholm for a barbeque, softball/soccer game, and a splash about in the briny, then we go down to Waiwera hot-pools and have a splash about there as well, and we usually take the place over.

Another annual trek is to Motuihe island, this costs about \$5.00 for the Blue Boat (leaves 9.30 - back 5.30) and a bit more for the barbeque and liquid refreshment.

This year is also the club's 21st and the appropriate celebrations will definately take place, but more on that later. There may also be a possibility of a camp/dive at either Otama Bay, north of Whitianga, or at Te Aria Point, north of Wellsford (or someplace else, we're open to ideas). This could be in the last weekend of the May break, but it all depends on transportation and you.

Keep an eye on the noticeboard, and come along to a meeting once in a while.

Chris

BASIC TRAINING CAMP : APRIL 16 - 18

This was a really excellent weekend, with a good time had by everyone who attended. We were lucky to have fine weather during the whole weekend. The water was clear and fish were prolific. About half of the group travelled up on the Friday to stay the whole weekend while others chose to come up just for the day on Saturday. In any case, both groups recorded the required number of dives easily in the time available. All dives were enjoyed and seemed to go without a hitch.

Saturday night was spent at the Leigh pub. Some of us will recall indulging in a somewhat noisy drinking game called "Hadley Bowling". Later the game slowed down, due in part to a slight degeneration of some of the participants. The only outcome from this was that there were no 8 o'clock dives on Sunday morning.

Having completed the dives successfully, we left the campsite in the early afternoon, subjecting ourselves to a dusty and bumpy ride in the back of our truck - driven somewhere between the extreme left-hand lane and the various vegetative growths on the verge of the road. In any case, the weekend provided not only a time to complete our Basic dives, but also an opportunity to get to know a lot of people better. The camp was clearly successful and all who went enjoyed it very much.

FRESHERS' CAMP 1982

Freshers' Camp of '82 vintage started much the same way as all the others i.e. utter chaos. The conference (ha ha) was attended by 23 souls in all, of whom 19 went up on the Friday night, of whom 8 had a cramped journey in Ewan's dad's Morris, with 24 tanks, 13 sleeping bags, 6 dozen beer, 3 pillows, 1 spare tyre, 8 chilly bins and Trevor Beasley. (gross exaggerations here!)

After the mandatory stop at Orewa, we had a short delay while Ewan accused, insulted and berated us for stealing his keys before he found them in a little-used pocket. (I don't think we've received apologies yet!)

We arrived at Goat Island Bay at 10.15 p.m.. The tent was up, the fire was lit, the food was ----- EATEN!

6 intrepid divers went for a night dive, one soul (who shall remain nameless, eh Malia?) commandeered the best night-light for herself, while short-sighted individuals (don't worry Lesley we'll keep it a secret!) suffered with a dying cyalume stick.

There was little excitement until 2 veteran divers mistook a gentle, dead, log for a vicious Conga. At least 8 feet it was, but the adrenalin kept us warm (mind you so did the urine-).

Next day was pleasantly spent snorkelling and diving without incident. Saturday evening (all evening) was spent at Leigh pub - where else? Fortunately no gang members encroached on our privacy - lucky for them (did Ewan really have a primed spear-gun under the table?).

We never fail to be amazed at the change a weekend away from the smog and grime of the Big Smoke has on the human spirit, which shows a marked increase in benevolence and goodwill towards others. This year was no exception.

Our hearts were truly touched on the Sabbath when those not sleeping in either of the two large tents awoke to find that one large tent of people had actually elected to sleep with their tent down so the camp-owner and his wife should not be deprived of the wondrous magnificence of the early-morning vista across the bay.

And we also found this miraculous benevolence extended not only towards our fellow man, but to inanimate objects as well. Believe, if you will, that the occupants of the 2nd large tent were so concerned that Mark's mini not suffer radiator chilblains, magnanimously gave up their tent entirely to shelter this brave little product of British Leyland workmanship from the rather cold, frosty conditions we encountered that night. (Following these proceedings we quickly fled to our own tents to don swimming-togs in case Trevor's "down-trou" plan was put into action!)

The weather rapidly deteriorated before breakfast so we packed up after a dive and lunch, and left for home, squeezing in a short 4-hour dive off Leigh Harbour.

PARORE: Girella tricuspidata

While in the process of downing a few lagers at the Big I one night, a few members of the club had a small difference of opinion as to the value of the Parore.

These are fast moving reef fishes with broad muscular tails and compressed bodies, best identified by the silver/grey body with 10-12 dark vertical bars.

They congregate loosely in groups and are diurnal, sheltering among weed and rocks at night, when their colouring changes to a dark olive green with yellow splotches. Food consists of small turfing red algae and large brown algae, eg. Carpophyllum and Ecklonia. These fish are almost entirely herbivorous. Close set, incisor-like teeth with points (hence tricuspidata) enable them to shear off sections of the large brown algae with a sideways movement of the head. They may also consume a small amount of animal matter in their diet, such as salps and some crabs.

Some schools of parore enter river estuaries to graze while others remain at sea, and here may be where they get their bad name as a food fish. The river residents were found by Ritchie, in 1971, to be of poorer condition and slab-sided, possibly from getting poorer food.

Many people have said that it is not a good eating fish, but I have myself eaten it, and found it very reasonable, not unlike some cods. (Ewan reckons it's the only fish he can hit with a spear and says he doesn't mind eating it as its one of the few fishes he can catch).

Distribution is widespread around the North Island, denser on the east coast, rarely extending below 10m, but if light penetration allows can be found at 20m.

The life history is poorly known but spawning takes place in December, although this is variable. Juveniles are similar in colour to adults. Average size of an adult is 300-350mm and 0.5-1.0kg in weight although fish of 2-5kg have been reported.

Close relatives are from the family Kyphosidae and include the silver drummer, blue maomao, mado and bluefish.

Laurie Franks

- References: Fishes of the Marine Reserve - Sue Thompson
Fishes of the NZ Region - Wade Doak
Fish and Invertebrate Microfauna of Ahuriri Estuary
Napier - Fisheries Report 153, A.R. Kilner
and J.M. Akroyd