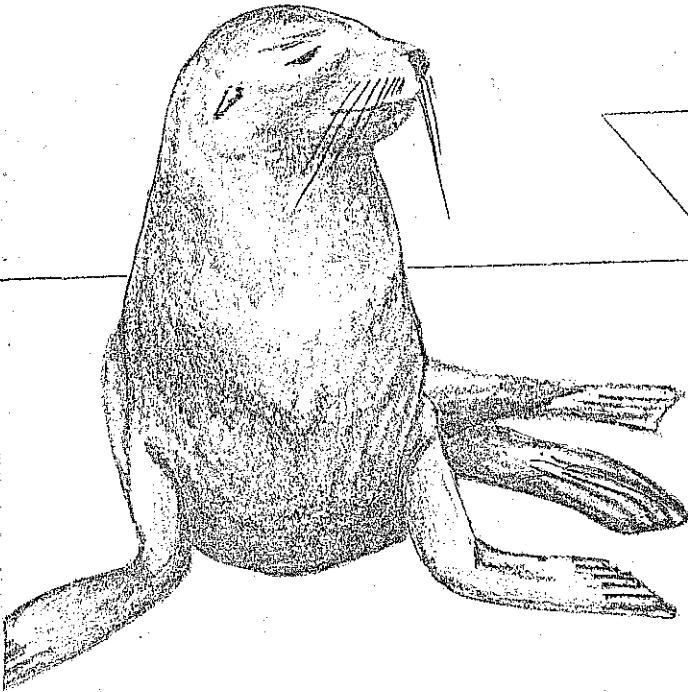
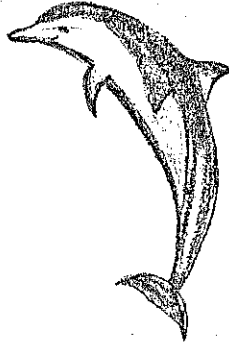


# FLOTSAM

APRIL '84



AUUC

EL PRESIDENTE

SO, This is 1984!! Hope you enjoyed filling out all those forms. Now we've got you on our records (sound of evil laugh). Give us A BUNNY DIVER and they're ours for life. There are about 75 of you all told. And I hope that those of you doing/done the course, and those by now expert divers from last year will continue to enjoy what the club has to offer (ie. Our own good company, plus). This year also see's the return of A few hard-core members, (Survivors from Puhoi) some of them can be found on the committee, (and some of them can't be found, maybe they're still at Puhoi).

Anyway this year sees about nine boat trips there may be a few more to add, for more info see DAN, places on some of the earlier trips (ie. Poor Knights) have been left open for some of you new DIVERS (though by the time you get this they may have been filled), But if you miss out don't despair, because hopefully A few more trips could be arranged.

If any of you want to organize your own trips then please feel free to advertise them at club meetings, the notice board and in this publication. Even if it's only a day trip up to Goat Island Bay. And remember the club gear is your gear, so use it!

Socials this year should form an important part of club activities for details read Cathy's Blurb. Highlights are usually the Annual "Puhoi almost a grovel Day", the Gapping week Raft Race, Fountain Crawl and then A Big End of year Rage. Don't forget the Cafe Dance March 23 and then in April we have A FRIDAY THE 13th Bring A Fiend extravaganza

We should also be having a sporting spectacular. This is more often than not a silly soccer game against whoever is brave or stupid enough to play (last years "Score" One dislocated knee and badly sprained ankle, to One slashed up knee, Good game eh Trev). We usually have a BBQ and a few drinks at half and full times. Oh and in case your wondering we'll play more than one game (and win all of em).

The club is also engaged in Indoor Soccer and we have two teams in underwater hockey.

When everyone's up at Goat Island Bay doing the sea tests at the end of the course, we (ie. the rest of the club, last count 140) come up to Leigh as well, partly to help out, but mostly because we all have A bloody good time. This sedate weekend April 7-8th traditionally called "Freshers Camp" is COMPULSORY for ALL members.

Hers's hoping we all get time to do some good DIVING in between the endless Labs and Essays.



pres Chris  
Hans  
president

and Ewan  
vicepresidents

A candid shot.

UNDERWATER HOCKEY

A.U.U.C. has 2 teams this year. One in the B grade (the big boys), and one in the C grade.

The C grade plays on Sunday nights at the Glen Innes pool and is open to anyone who wishes to try it. If you can't hold your breathe very long time now you will be able to after a few games. It is very easy to pick up the rules, and the rules do not cramp ones style. There is always the faithful few, as in most things that always turn up for a game but now and again we find ourselves having to recruit players from other teams; so please don't hesitate in just turning up at 7.30 pm any Sunday night. Snorkel, mask and fins are needed but the club has recently purchased new sticks and a puck.

Love T.I.M.

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Classified ad.

FOR SALE US DIVERS WET SUIT - Size 3 (small size), good cond.  
\$70, and SEIKO 150m auto DIVERS WATCH. Never worn \$150.  
Ph. Kevin 895419

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1984 committee.....

PRESIDENT	Chris Kitson	768779
VICE PRESIDENTS	Ewan Grant-Mackie	768779
	Brian Dobson	762308
TREASURER	Brian Dobson	762308
SECRETARY	.....	.....
TRIPS	Dan Steinemann	4784038
Gears	Tim Baker	606629
Socials	Cathy Crowe	603266
Scientific	Peter Dickson	
Publications	Jillian Frater	674776
Training	Keith Caldwell	
GENERAL COMMITTEE	Mel Collins	498407
	Malcom Sinclair	676138
	Kevin Douglas	888167
	Wayne Ewington	676606
	James Sulcias	500051
	Susan Brodnax	4783538

# TRIPS SCHEDULE '84

FOR ADDITIONS TO THIS LIST SEE THE NOTICEBOARD

Phone DAN 4784038

1. ALDERMAN ISLANDS 31. .84 - 1. .84 (WEEK-END) COST: \$70.00  
 LIMITED TO 10 PLACES. GREAT DIVING ABOARD 37 FT + TRANSPORT  
 "M.V TARANUI" SKIPPER JOHN YOUNG OF ELINGAMITE AND + AIRFILLS  
 N.Z SPARR FISHING CHAMPS FAME!!! LEAVE FROM TAIRUA. TOTAL \$90.00 approx
  
2. GREAT BARRIER ISLAND 14.5.84 - 15.5.84 (MON-TUES COST: \$65.00  
 2ND WK MAY HOLS). LIMITED TO 18 PLACES. COMFORTABLE + AIRFILLS  
SPACIOUS CAUSING ABOARD 55 FT "LUXURY LAUNCH PEGASUS II". TOT \$75.00 approx  
 SKIPPER ERIC COSSE OF SOMETHING-OR-OTHER FAME!!!  
 LEAVE FROM MARSDEN WHARF AUCKLAND,
  
3. THREE PARALLEL TRIPS TO 2.6.84 - 3.6.84 (WEEKEND) COST: \$65.00  
POOR KNIGHTS ISLANDS 7.7.84 - 8.7.84 (WEEKEND) + TRANSPORT  
 28.7.84 - 29.7.84 (WEEKEND) + AIRFILLS  
 BOAT: LADY JESS, ERIC WELLINGTON SKIP NEEDS NO  
 ADVERTISING. LEAVES FROM TUTUKAKA. 14 PLACES/TRIP TOTAL \$80.00  
 PLACES RESERVED FOR BEGINNERS (SP?) "BLUNNIES". BE QUICK!!!
  
4. WHITE ISLAND 13.8.84 - 16.8.84 (incl) COST \$120.00  
 (MON-TUES 1ST WK AUG HOLS) SHORE, EXPLOSIONS + TRANSPORT  
 ETC (COURTESY RNZAF AT VOLKNER ROCKS) GOOD IF + AIRFILLS  
 NOT CHILLY DIVING. TARANUI EX TAIRUA, TOTAL \$160.00
  
5. ALDERMAN ISLANDS LAST WEEK-END IN AUG. HOLS  
 OR 15-16.9.84 (WEEKEND) COST:  
 TO BE CONFIRMED  
 SAME AS 1. ABOVE ONLY ADD GREAT VERY TOTAL \$90.00 approx  
NIPPY DIVING. "ICE DIVING" CERTIFICATE PREF.
  
6. GREAT BARRIER ISLAND 29.9.84 - 30.9.84  
 (WEEKEND) SAME AS 2. ABOVE BUT COULD INCLUDE COST:  
 MOKOHINAU ISLANDS AND LITTLE BARRIER DEPENDING TOTAL \$75.00 (approx)  
 ON TRIP LEADER'S WHIMS. CREW INFLUENCE BY  
 BAIBE ONLY (CASH, FOOD, GOOD BUNK ALL ACCEPTED)
  
7. THREE KINGS ISLANDS 9.11.84 - 19.11.84 (incl)  
 A BARGAIN 10-DAY GETAWAY CRUISE ABOARD COST: \$390.00  
 "PEGASUS II". GREAT WIND-DOWN AFTER FINAL EXAMS. + AIRFILLS  
 FREE!!! ALL DIVING ON NZ'S N.E COAST BETWEEN TOT \$450.00  
 34°S AND 37°S AT NO EXTRA COST!!! 3 K'g FAMOUS  
 FOR SHARKS, CORAL, ELINGAMITE WRECK GOOD  
 SIZED FISH (HAPUKU) SLIGHT SWELLS AND CURRENTS ↑ CHEAP!!!  
 EXPERIENCED DIVERS ONLY!! REAL ONERS (e.g S. MINNANICKS)  
 REQUIRE 10 DIVE MIN/M

Arrive at the wharf at 7-30 pm, which we all managed, all that is except for Eric and the Pegasus. Nevermind, off to the South Pacific to observe the locals and for some to sample the beer.

Sometime around 9-30 pm Eric welcomes us aboard, warning us not to sit on the toilet seat and pump at the same time. The sea was nice and calm- thank God, and while the Pegasus II ploughed on we spent our time profitably, engaging in such activities as sleeping, book and magazine reading, and chatting.

Two important things go to make up any good dive trip. One is the diving (how unusual), and the other is the people (if you can call some of them that).

### THE DIVING

As the anchor chain clanks down my eyes note the time- 6-40 am, and off they go, into the water. Our 'true' morning dive was at Maori Rock. Visibility was an estimated 20-30 ft, which was noted to be very poor for the Mokohinaus. My afternoon dive at Burgess Island was memorable for both Ewan and me.

My side of the story; The dive was proceeding nicely until Ewan spotted a largish Octopus on a rock. I nodded that, yes it was a nice Octopus, but Ewan proceeded to fondle it and have a good play around, trying to see how tangled up he could get it. He then offered it to me but I refused to have anything to do with it. I shook my head while Ewan frantically pointed at the Octopus and nodded his head up and down. But little did I know...

What Ewan was thinking; "This octopus would make a nice meal, I'll grab it and stick it in the catch bag. Good I've got all the tentacles wrapped up nicely and there's no chance of it's beak biting me. I'll put my speargun down to make it easier for me to put it in the bag. Oh no that stupid girl's got it on her arm and now she's shaking her head saying she won't give it to me. I'll get her to go and pick up my spear gun- God she can't understand that either - I'll go and get it myself".

My side; So then Ewan handed me the speargun. I took it realising he must have wanted me to get it, As he wrenched the catch bag from my arm, I realised that he had wanted to catch the octopus. Ewan then kindly bashed me on the head with his dive gauges, while his head kept shaking disapprovingly. Ewan in his fit of frustration sucked through his tank and once we reached the surface put his mouth into overdrive. What a good laugh.

Saturday nights dive was a memorable occasion for some. Straight down from the boat the stupified divers found a congregation of large crays. First one was spotted, then around the corner another and then yet another, all of a rather palatable size. Some of the crays had some of the waste parts of the fish earlier gutted on board still trailing from their mandibles. First to return to the surface was Sid whose torch had karked out before he had had a chance to sample the menu- crayfish- a la large. He told us of the treasures that lay beneath us and we waited to see the magnitude of the crays. Sunday we dived at Simpson's Rock, which is located between the "Mokes" and Little Barrier, stories of shark spotting near here did not ease my conscience much, but as it turned out all I saw was lots of neat little fish. Little Barrier on the way home was very murky, but a spot for crays as usual.

## MORE MARVELOUS MOKES...

I forgot to mention that Saturday afternoon the more adventurous of us had gone exploring on the island. It was a brilliant day and the views were superb.

### THE PEOPLE

- Chris... The person Ewan and I thought had met some formidable foe on our night dive. We had called and called, but no Chris, then a voice just like Chris's was heard from the boat.
- Ewan The very frustrated octopussy catcher, who left his octopus for safe keeping in Eric's freezer (or did he forget it?)
- Diver Dan Rewarded with the biggest cray of the trip, with a tail of 230 mm, and known for his great Billy Connelly impersonations.
- Scott W. Not known for his great Billy Connelly impersonations but famed for his Italian accent and his day to be born on . Also the dare devil of the top off the light-house.
- Ngaire Likes cockroaches up her jersey.
- Jeremy Gives demonstrations of how to kill cockroaches pouring out of a milo packet with a chopping knife in 100+ blows.
- JOHN O. Kindly left his catchbag for fellow divers use.
- Geoff M. A brief summary; Tea- totaller, loves sleeping on the floor, hates big crays, lies in bed the whole trip, is a keen picketer of pornography shops and hates strawberry, fruitsalad and hokey pokey icecream, and beetroot.
- Ian Sneddon

Well... Ian made our trip memorable and he picked up a few tips from us on " What to do on dive trips ".

#### Rule no. 1.

Stay awake all night when sleeping in the same room as Sid, Scott, Tank etc. or if lapsing into a deep sleep can't be avoided, check your forehead, arms etc. first thing in the morning for vandalism.

#### Rule no. 2.

Always empty your compensator before descent to avoid much kicking of legs on the surface and embarrassment.

#### Rule no. 3.

If diving with M.C. tie a rope to him to be sure of sticking together.

#### Rule no. 4.

When reading dive tables be absolutely positive they are the right way up and you are looking at the right side.

#### Rule no. 5.

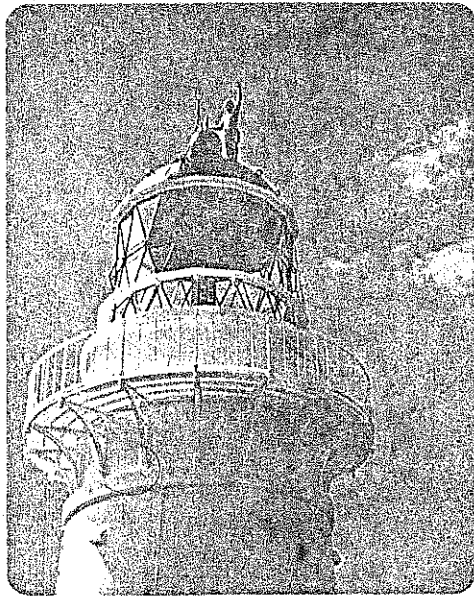
When dive gear is not assembled in the customary way the best place to rectify this perplexity is back on the boat and not by beaching oneself on a wave beaten rock, somewhere between Mokohinau and Little Barrier. But seriously, we are not really a mean bunch Ian and hope you had a good trip!

Mark C. As Mark wrote in Eric's log. "Win some crays, lose some crays".

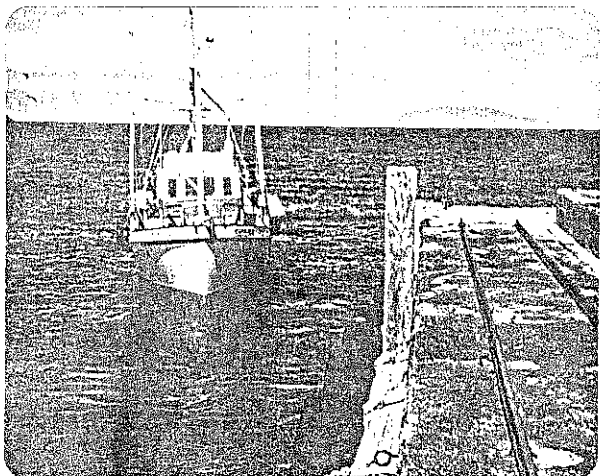
Tank M. Has a written record stating "that I Philip Mc Farlane admit that Mike Coombes is a better diver than me".  
N.B. See Eric's log. book.

- Sid M. Employs his literary talents as often as possible. E.g. Eric's log book and Ian's forehead. Also his artistic techniques, e.g. Ian's arm, ( or was that his knowledge of human anatomy ).
- Frank B. He may be a "bunny" (as some say), but he did well.
- Peter KD This species of fish can often be seen with tape measure trailing and a pencil and slate in it's fin.
- Mike c. Eats like a sparrow, has a spotless wetsuit, hates crays (especially ones that might bite), hates diving in general and hot showers.
- Grant D. Has the courage to put up with this bunch.
- Jillian Lies a lot , (is a great diver), likes writing smart comments about people and is always forced into the kitchen where she doesn't belong.
- All abuse should be hurttled at me for writing this article and all the typing mistakes ignored totalli!!

Hello scott !!!



Some of the "people".



The Pegasus II  
 preparing to  
 "bunch" off  
 the wharf  
 - Mokehinaus.

SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS REPORT:

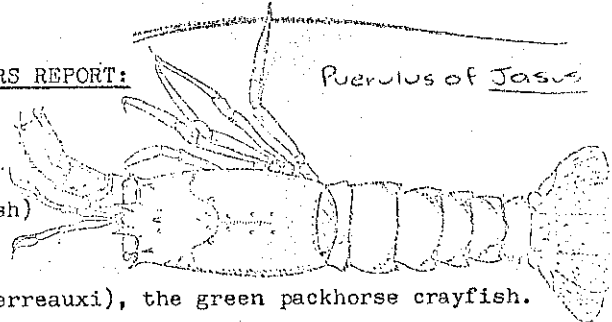
Puerulus of Jasus

NEW ZEALAND CRAYFISH

Two species of rock lobsters (marine crayfish) inhabit N.Z. waters:

Jasus Edwardsii - the red spiny crayfish.

Jasus Lalandii (ex J. verreauxi), the green packhorse crayfish.



Jasus edwardsii the more common species, is present along most rocky coastlines in N.Z. but is more abundant in the south-west of the South Island and at the Chatham Islands. The species reaches the northern limit of distribution at the Three Kings Islands (34°S) and it's southern limit at the Auckland Islands (51°S).

J. lalandii, the less common species is restricted almost solely in N.Z. waters to the NE coast of the North Island. It is uncommon in the west and the south of the North Island and is rare in the South Island. J. lalandii apparently reaches it's northern limit at the Kermadec Islands (31°S) and it's southern limit near Bluff (47°S) in the South Island.

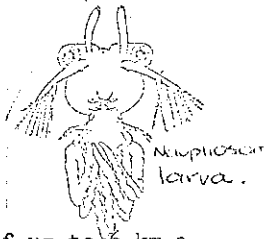
The N.Z. rock lobsters are of the family Palinuridae and lack claws, in the Atlantic Ocean a clawed representative Homarus americanus is found.

Rock lobsters are found in deep and shallow habitats wherever there is broken rock, their diet is urchins, gastropods, brittle stars and asteroids (starfish).

PhD student Alistair Mac Diarmid working at Leigh found that there are unequal sex ratios between deep and shallow reefs at certain times of the year. In August females move to the deeper reefs and in December males move to the shallow reefs. Crayfish from different reefs may show colour morphs, males moult in May-August and sometimes again Nov-Feb. Females and immature rock lobsters moult Feb-July.

The males are larger than the females. In the South Island females reach sexual maturity at or just past their legal size of 152mm. In the North Island females breed under the size limit.

Females carry their eggs from March to October. Eggs are released into the sea and float around in the plankton. The larva, called a phyllosome has a complex set of metamorphoses to produce a puerulus. During this time the phyllosome larva are dispersed by the currents. After several months the larva settles and the puerulus, which looks like a mature rock lobster occupies it's rock habitat.



Naupliar larva.

The Packhorse crayfish breeding ground at Spirits Bay, North Cape, is well placed to distribute larvae with the current down the NE side of the North Island. Crayfish also undergo migrations of up to 6 km a day, large groups of american crayfish have been found marching in indian file over the seafloor.

The long larval stage and physiological changes make culturing larvae and impossible task, however the puerula have been caught as they settle using layers of laminated wood submerged with a concrete block, farming of rock lobster could add to the 4227+ optimum yield.

Peter and a friend



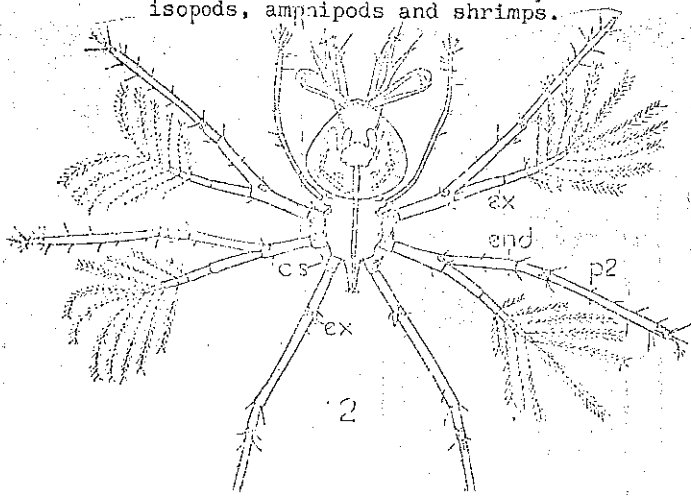
Lobsters should be captured by grasping around the carapace if the tail of legs are grasped the animal can be damaged. Undamaged crayfish will keep for a couple of days in sacking wet with seawater, Though considered unethical by many, craywands capture lobsters undamaged because they hold it while the other hand can get a good grip around the carapace, wands should not be used as gaffs.

Undersize lobsters should be thrown back as soon as possible as sunlight is harmful, especially to their eyes.

A good place to observe lobsters is Leigh, where they are in densities of 40-50 per 500m<sup>2</sup> over double the density of other parts of N.Z. (70 lobsters have been recorded under a single boulder at Leigh).

Other underwater crustaceans seen by divers are Scyllarus the Spanish lobster, Stenopus the banded coral shrimp and the crab. Many smaller crustaceans are present too; such as barnacles, isopods, amphipods and shrimps.

By Peter K.D.



phyllosoma larva of crayfish.

ALL YE WHO HEAR,  
COME TO THIS TEMPLE DRAW NEAR,  
AND READ ALL ABOUT THE DIVE GEAR!

AUUC is the proud owner of much gear! Now this gear, for it to be of any use, must be used. All members of the University Dive Club, young and old, are entitled to use this gear. Single items may even be used separately - there is much!

For a start, and what a grand start, there is one boat. This is a 12ft Starcraft and is fitted out with two bailers. This boat has, in the past, been powered by one 9.9 HP Johnson outboard, with reverse. It could still be powered by this very same motor, there are two oars and one pair of rolisks (rowlocks?) all the same.

Also there are two 88 cubic ft dive tanks  
and two 72 cubic ft dive tanks that are full  
and ready to be emptied and filled.  
ready to be emptied and filled.

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL!

The Auckland University Underwater Club, you lot, also possess and even own much camping gear. Following is a list of your gear.

- three large tents (20 min capacity).
- three small tents (3 min capacity and one hole).
- one CNG bottle 5 litre (God knows what for).
- one Primus, two rung (my goodness), gas cooker (new).
- two large ground sheets (old).
- one (dare I say) "GO" portabog - "collapsable but not while I'm on it thankyou" type.
- two Kerosene burners, for the oldies.
- two Hurricane lamps
- six pots and pans and other associated similar cooking type appendages.
- one 5 gallon plastic beer container.
- one Kerosene container.

Did I forget to mention before that the one boat, 12ft Starcraft, complete with two bailers, one motor, two oars and two rolisks sits on a beautiful, looks like new, smashing really trailer? This trailer is only a little bit big for the boat but suffices in doing the trick. Lights are assumed to work (haven't exactly been tested yet!).

This trailer looks like new, smashing really because, thanks to faithful and true Dive Club members who sacrificed a day in their very important and meaningful lives to work on rebuilding it.

Malcolm is indeed to be thanked, very graciously, for supplying the place, some tools, the next door neighbours broken hacksaw and the sister that supplied the scones. But most thanks must go to Malcolm for supplying the beers, thanks Malc.

Our president, all rise, Mr Christopher Kitson esq, was also there, somewhere, running around collecting this, buying that even off home to get tacks - that were very graciously donated by Mr Kitson's Dad. I wonder if he'll ever find out how gracious he really was.

Dan, also, must be thanked for much darned hard work and without whose skill in welding little animals on the side of our trailer, we would be still at Malcolm's place drinking LION - the beer you have when you're not really having a beer.

Dan's girlfriend (but I don't know how serious they really are) Lee Anne showed extreme courage when in charge of the recarpeting exercise with Chris's Dad's tacks. (say that over fast!)

Jillian drilled very nice holes in pieces of wood and I may have sawn a few in half too. She also, I noticed, had two cheese scones with jam.

Trev was very enthusiastic, thanks Trev.

Kevin must be thanked for inspiring Dan to create a welding masterpiece and Trev to try and fix it up so it wouldn't look so bad when we tried to get a warrant. Ah yes a warrant - it used to dream of getting a warrant.

Brendan supplied the smiles on our day of toil.

But I think most thanks must go to me for just being there, when just being there was just what was needed, as it has been said!

Now if any of you would like to use any item of the gear do not hesitate in contacting Bruce on Wednesdays between 4.30pm and 5.00pm at 797 603 or me Timmo at 606 629. Don't phone me during the day, I'm out, or at night, I'm in bed, or in the morning, I'm in bed, I know!! See me at the meeting on Tuesdays.

HEY - be careful out there.

## T H E T H R E E K I N G S

November 10-20th 1983

SCENE: A drizzly Friday evening, exams just finished and a bunch of 11 divers, (numbers unfortunately reduced due to several late defections) gathered at Marsden wharf, home of the "Pegasus", preparing for a nine day trip to the largely undived Three Kings. Sid was the only one of us who had made the trip before (twice in fact) and so we had accounts from him of the mind blowing diving up there, however, nothing was to prepare us for the amazing experience of diving the Three Kings. Finally, just before midnight we slipped our moorings and set off on our great adventure.

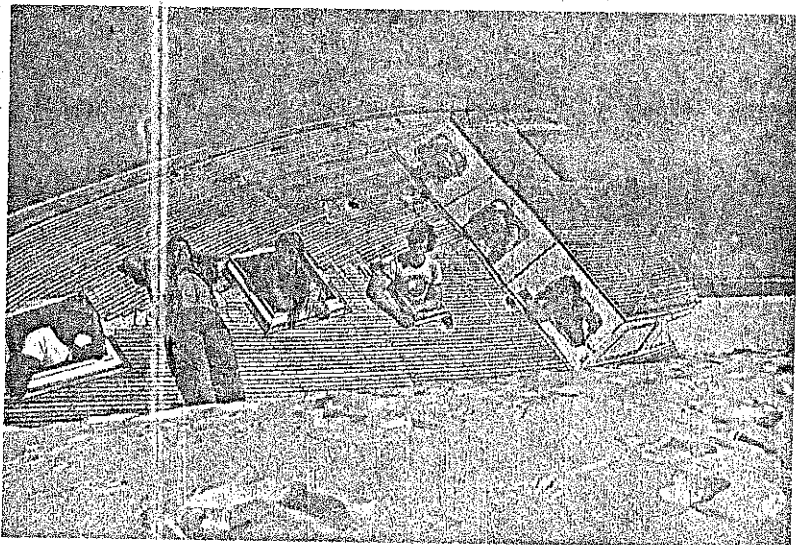
DAY 1: Early Saturday morning saw us approaching the Western end of Coppermine Island of the Hen and Chicken group. The clouds of the night before had dispersed and there was virtually no wind whatsoever as we entered the water for the first dive. Visibility was variable, from 30-50ft, possibly more. Crays were sparse, but the fish were not, and a wide range of species were encountered (Golden Snapper, John Dory, Blue Cod, Porae, etc.).

Back on board we set out for the Poor Knights for a second dive, eating breakfast on the way. When we arrived at Hope Point some dived in the shallows around the air bubble caves, while others headed out to the deeper water off the point. An excellent dive with visibility in the 80-100ft range. Geoff and I spotted a Toadstool Groper and some of the banded Coral Shrimps which live at the back of the air bubble caves, and after the dive a Sunfish was seen at the surface (with Sid getting close enough to identify it positively).

After a near collision with the Tutakaka based charter boat "Norseman" (one of their crew acting as a human fender) we set a course for Cape Brett and Piercy Island. In the mean time we lounged about in the early afternoon sun discussing the days diving so far. Arriving at Cape Brett we steamed through the "hole in the rock" at Piercy Island and jumped into the water with 40-60ft visibility.

The highlight of the day for me was seeing a 20-plus pound Snapper, while other divers raved over the giant Kingfish they were swimming with. We set course for North Cape and enjoyed a good dinner knowing that tomorrow we would arrive at our

12  
destination - the Three Kings.



Puvungu Harbour - French  
yacht  
wreck.

DAY 2: It's 6.45am and the Pegasus is taking the 3-5m ocean swell in her stride as Great Island, of the Three Kings group looms up ahead of us. The water has taken on a deep ink-blue colour and dolphins are periodically sharing our ride. Eric, our skipper, tosses over the stabilisers and the boat immediately assumes a smoother ride, much to our satisfaction as we hog into breakfast.

On arriving at the Kings our entire crew was amazed by the thousands of seabirds working and screaming constantly over acres of feeding Kingfish and Trevally. Big ocean swells smashed spectacularly into the rocks and islets around the group, turning the water around them into a boiling, seething white cauldron.

We trundled through to the Elingamite site at West Island and prepared for our first dive here. The dive site was a little unnerving, with all the white water and the breaking swells, but once in it was a rapid descent to the wreck itself. Visibility was well in excess of 100ft and at 140ft Geoff and I saw thick schools of Golden Snapper almost motionless beside some huge boulders.

We moved up the slope to the 110ft level - divers were scattered throughout the wreckage, rapidly searching for coins in the debris. I uncovered two silver coins quite quickly followed

by a penny but soon after it was time to ascend to the 10ft level for the obligatory decoking stop. Even at 10ft I could still see divers quite clearly over 100ft below! Back on board, a piece of 'rock' I had salvaged yielded the handle of a silver fork and most of a silver cigarette case. Everyone's mouth's were in top gear raving over the wreck, visibility down there and the dive in general. The days excitement, however, had only just begun for some of us.

Pulling into Brutus Bay we set the pick, some of us going snorkelling, others canoeing, but most decided that the water looked so good that we piled in for a scuba dive. I had seen a shark while snorkelling earlier in the Bay but I thought nothing more of it until sometime later.

Once in, Geoff and I were spearing fish left, right and centre when, from nowhere, came trouble in the shape of a six foot school shark, then another, and another, then two more, ranging in size from 5-7ft. By this time the self-preservation instinct had overtaken the desire to spearfish and Geoff and I were almost back to back fending away sharks that were making passes to close. I managed to retrieve our hastily dropped catch bag and we beat a quick retreat back to the boat (keeping a wary eye out for enemies).

Upon reaching the Pegasus we found everyone gathered around the rails wondering if we had seen any sharks. They all, it seemed, had had their own shark experience during the dive which prevented everyone (almost) from doing night dives at the Kings. We could handle the sharks when we could see them and where they were coming from, but no way were we prepared to take them on at night, with our visibility limited to a torch beam.

Later we had an excellent dinner of crayfish and fish speared that day. Already the Kings had more than lived up to its name for fantastic diving - but this was only the beginning.

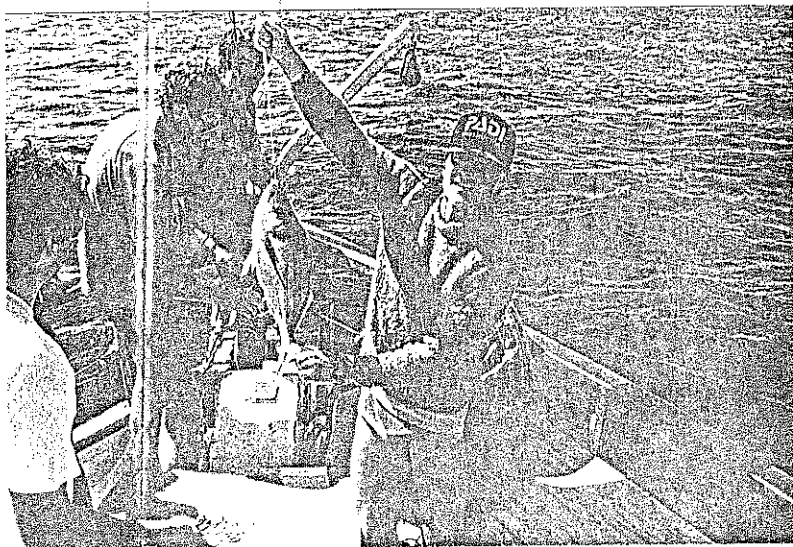
DAY 3: 7.30am and its yet another fine day with everyone tucking into breakfast at a rapid rate. We pull out of Brutus Bay and head for North East Island and Fang Rock. Jumping over into visibility well over 100ft Geoff and I soon encounter Red Coral at 39m, it seems like we are only in half that depth. Just around a sheer cliff face a school of Red Snapper is so densely packed that I pause to stare.

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The rock faces are lush and thick with a profusion of brilliant encrusting plants and animals, different hues and colours everywhere. A pair of giant Blue Moki (rare in the North Island but common at the Three Kings) hang motionless in the current. Thousands upon thousands of Pink Maomao stretch behind us and ahead out of view. Big Trevally weave swiftly in and out, and a school of big Kingfish swim in to investigate us. Blue Maomao are everywhere and behind us an armada of reef fish follows our progress. A seven foot shark weaves through the immense school of Pink and Blue Maomao and below masses of Red Snapper go about their business apparently unaware of our presence.

We head up a boulder slope and spy a 3ft Spotted Black Groper out in the open - it scoots back to a cave where one or two more of its kind are lurking amongst the Crays in the cracks and overhangs. All too soon it is time to ascend after an incredible dive. Once again all the crew are talking in top gear about the dive.

Pulling into Tasman Bay (where Abel Tasman sought water unsuccessfully) some of us go snorkelling while others tramp about the Island amidst native lizards, geckos and birds found nowhere else in NZ. The Pegasus takes on water from the stream and after retrieving a long line we head over to the Elingamite site for a dive.



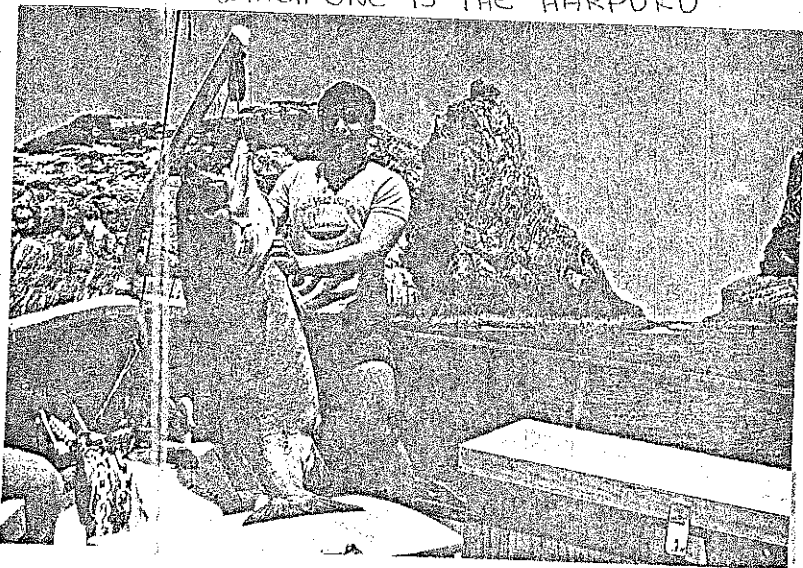
The boys checking out the catch.

Once again 100ft plus visibility and an excellent dive. Divers are starting to get a feel for the wreck site. We decide to stay at Tasman Bay for the night and Geoff and I take off for a spearfishing dive, this time without any shark trouble. After dinner that night John and Sid try a night dive and are chased out after less than ten minutes by sharks bumping into them, so this was the first and last night dive at the Kings during our trip.

DAY 4: Another fine day dawns and after breakfast we decide to dive Farmer Rock but are unable to do so due to the big swell, so we motor over to Dentist's Cavity at North East Island instead. A good decision it turns out. We jump into good visibility again and head over to the Cavity - an overhang with huge crevices and vertical cracks around it. The roof of the Cavity is lined with thick growths of Red Coral (very rare except in one or two places in NZ and then it tends to be at depths of at least 50m - Oculina Point at the Poor Knights).

Geoff and I are trying to wrestle a Spotted Black Groper into the catch bag while Don and Tank are stuffing 5-6lb Crays into catch bags. We scoot around to see what Raoul, Steven, Mel, and Kevin are looking at, and I am blown away by what I see.

GUESS WHICH ONE IS THE HARPUKU



Mike  
Sid  
and  
the  
Hapuka



Three 20-40lb Hapuka weave slowly in and out of a big vertical cleft, this is the first time any of us have seen this species, but it isn't just this that I find hard to believe. At the back of the cave a gigantic Hapuka quietly rests, one baleful eye watching us while it sits absolutely still. Remembering the experience now I still find it hard to believe but about half of us saw it so it wasn't some figment of my imagination. A conservative estimate of its weight would be 150lb and it was approximately 6ft long. This is a rare sight only a handful of divers have witnessed, or are likely to witness this so I count myself as being very lucky.

After taking in this scene for about ten minutes we headed off past some big Blue Moki and the fattest Blue Cod I'd ever seen. The current running down the East side of the

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Island soon picks us up and we go with it through thick schools of Trevally, Blue and Pink Maomao, while the odd Spotted Black Groper eyes us as we pass by. Finally we ascend. The boat is full of bubbling divers.

We head over to Arch Reef to anchor for lunch. Some go ashore to look at the Gannet colonies. A rock, which turns out to be a seal is scared by them leaps into the water and swims off. Some of us stay on board to try a little fishing. The fish are really biting and a big Red Snapper soon comes up. Kevin then brings up a Hapuka so I put the long line down with a Cray head on one hook and its tail on another. The following sequence of events happens very quickly. The line goes under the boat, next Sid and I are hauling the line up and a 100lb Hapuka is at the surface.

Later, after cleaning the fish, a bunch of us decide to dive down onto the reef and see just what is down there. What follows is the best dive I've had in over seven years of diving (followed by the dives at Dentist's Cavity, Fang Rock and the Elingamite). Arch Reef is a relatively small knob of rock with a 'valley' running down the middle of it. The Reef comes up from almost 57m to within 15m of the surface. We followed the anchor chain to the top of the reef and then followed the more or less vertical face down. In the current a huge school of giant Golden Snapper hung suspended, the rocks were thickly covered with brightly coloured sponges, coral and other sessile invertebrates and plants. Not a single inch was left bare.

Huge Blue Moki weaved in slow motion in the valley and a 50-60lb Hapuka swam through the milling schools a few times. A school of Kingfish zeroed in on the scene and about 60ft away in the clear blue midwater a shark, streamlined and torpedo-like, cruises past. Clouds of Pink and Blue Maomao seethe in a back-drop of big rocks encrusted with colour and animals. At 36 m the bottom, 24m further down, is clearly visible, as is the silvery surface above. The visibility seems endless. Yet another unique experience I think to myself as I hang on the anchor chain at 10ft decoking afterward.

Later we have another dive at the Elingamite but my mind is still focussed on the previous dive. From the dives at this site people have brought up propeller nuts, door locks, assorted tiles and damaged silverware, coins and glass jar lids. We feast

on fresh fish and crayfish that night and afterwards a chat session goes on late into the evening, reviewing the days events.

DAY 5: 7.30am and everyone is getting breakfast down as fast as possible and preparing for our last day at the Kings. Shortly after breakfast its straight over to the Elingamite and into a two knot current. Even at 140ft the current is noticeable, it sweeps away the sand I stir up while fossicking for coins. Nine minutes are almost up and I signal to Geoff that its time to work back up the slope to the decompression stop. With a coin tucked safely in my compensator pocket, we reach the surface after our scheduled stop at 10ft, in time to see the Pegasus picking up divers swept away by the powerful current.

A short stop is made at Hastings Pond for a bit of surface interval time and then we steam off to the Coral Gardens. Here the Red Coral grows on the vertical cliff faces in thick profusion accompanied by other brightly coloured attached invertebrates. Some clumps of Coral are almost a foot high and two feet long in a roughly oval pattern of growth. Chris manages to photograph a Red Snapper shortly before Tank spears it. Decompressing at 10ft Geoff and I are investigated by some nosy Kingfish, however they are not as large or abundant as those on the Elingamite wreck this morning.

Back on the boat, everyone is taking final snapshots before we head off for Cape Maria Van Diemen. Around the boat Trevally and Kingfish seethe and overhead birds scream and wheel about plucking tiny fish out of the sea. Finally Eric points the bow back to the mainland while we all laze around in the brilliant sunshine eating lunch.

Mid-afternoon and thirteen people in the inflatable boat heading toward a small sandy beach at Motuopao Island to investigate the remains of the old abandoned lighthouse there. Flax Snail shells are everywhere and the view from the lighthouse is grand. North lies the Three Kings, West lies Australia, East lies Cape Reinga and to the South lies Ninety Mile Beach stretching away into the horizon.

We dive shortly afterward at the Southern end of Te Werahi Beach and noone sees anything to recommend the site, however Geoff and I locate some rocks in 5-10ft of water which are plastered with Mussels (good size). A team of snorkellers is dispatched and a good haul of Mussels is made. We motor off

around Cape Reinga, along Spirits Bay to anchor at its Eastern end for dinner and the rest of the night.

DAY 6: After breakfast some of us make preparations to dive on a reef in the Bay about a quarter of a mile away. A fair current is going over the reef and is steadily increasing. We secure a good haul of Crays however, including one of the bigger Spiny Crays I've ever taken. One of our crew, in a fit of scatter-brained panic, reports Chris as missing, so while the Pegasus is steaming around in the current slick looking for this lost diver, a bunch of us who have just finished a dive on the reef are pursuing the Pegasus in the inflatable with Chris on board!

Once everyone is accounted for we head off to North Cape and just behind Murimotu Island we have a dive on one of New Zealand's oldest shipwrecks, the William Denny. Later in the day we visit Parengarenga Harbour and the remains of a yacht wrecked on a bar at the entrance to the Harbour. Early in the evening we have a dive at Simmonds Island where Dan manages to catch a 5lb Snapper in his hands! Then its straight into Houhora Harbour for the night.

DAY 7: After breakfast we head off for the Houhora Museum (which is well worth a visit) and shortly after Eric puts the Pegasus on a sandbank briefly while manoeuvring out of the Harbour. The weather has picked up and we experience our only wet and rough day of the trip. By now, however, everyone had their sea legs and the rolling boat is just an inconvenience. The biggest worry for those playing cards in the saloon is if Sid, Melvin and Kevin are cheating at 500.

We have an interesting dive at Cape Karikari in exceptionally clear coastal water. At 130ft with another 30ft to go giant bright yellow sponges are attached to pinnacles of rock the size of small buildings. A cloud of Demoiselles swim around the vertical rock faces while fat Blue Cod, several John Dory and Parrotfish go about their business. A John Dory is speared and immediately a small school of Kingfish zero in from nowhere and circle us. Here and there a Crayfish feeler gives away the presence of its owner. Visibility is 50 to 70ft.

The clouds are beginning to break as we have a dive at the Southern end of Stephenson Island. Directly below the Pegasus the

rocks are barren but moving toward deeper water a sombre forest of long stalked Ecklonia is encountered which bristles with crayfish and Red Moki. In fact the Moki are everywhere bumping into each other as well as the crayfish. Geoff spots a relatively rare Painted Moki and I recover someones recently lost anchor and 15ft of chain. Later, as we steam toward the Cavallis group, the clouds part, and we throw the pick over in a sheltered bay.



SID  
TANK DAN  
with dinner.

what lovely  
smiling faces

DAY 8: The day dawns fine and almost totally cloudless. Steaming toward Tabeke Reef we pass by schools of fish on the surface while sweltering in our wetsuits. Visibility at the pinnacle (which rises from 190ft to 35ft from the surface) is only 40-50ft. Once-in, however, we are greeted by thick schools of Pink Maomao, Splendid Perch, Red Snapper and Demoiselles. The walls of the

pinnacle are typically encrusted with brightly coloured invertebrates. At 115ft Geoff and I spot a pair of Lord Howe Island Coralfish.

Once everyone is up we head off towards Cape Brett for a dive at Waiwiri Rock. Visibility there is around 40ft and I see a rare Spotted Surgeonfish. The dive proves to be quite productive as far as Crayfish are concerned too. Cruising over the millpond sea we have our final dive at Blue Maomao Arch at the Poor Knights. Visibility is excellent (around the 100ft mark) and most people are content to potter around at the 30-40ft level checking out the scenery and pulling each others fins, masks and weightbelts off. Just on sunset we set course for the Mokohinau Islands.

DAY 9: The last day of the trip and once again a sunny day although the wind is up a bit compared to yesterday's glassy conditions. We dive, after breakfast, at the North Western tip of Fanal Island of the Mokohinau group and the visibility is reasonably good - around 60ft. The Mokes live up to their reputation as a place for big Crays with quite a few 3-5 pound ones coming on board. At 80ft Geoff and I spotted a seven foot shark just as it passed between us however it was minding its own business and we didn't see it again. Decoking at 10ft Tank and I exchange the international diving signal (middle finger) extended in an up and down movement.

The final dive is at an area of Northern Little Barrier where the rocks are almost walking away in places with crayfish. Visibility is around 30-40ft.

And that's it. To sum the trip up it was the best diving any of us had ever had and a real experience. Great weather, great diving, excellent company - most of us, and I for one will be back there in 1984!

EM CEE.

# 🐟 SOCIAL EVENTS

I hope everyone enjoyed the first social evening in orientation '84, the film and slide show presented by Jerru Carpenter. I think everyone who saw the slides will agree, how fantastic and exciting our underwater playground is! I think everyone who attended the joint outdoor clubs social enjoyed their evening. Many people showed great imagination with their costume design for - "A Night Of a Thousand Stars"- from; Princess Leia (Mike) and Darth Vader (Jillian) to hawaiian maidens (chris) and the band Katango certainly had plenty of spirit!!



The dive CLUB SOCIAL is approaching fast : Friday 13 th April ... beware witches, ghouls and zombies welcome... others too. We've yet to confirm a band, this may be in the Functions Room and we may have some special presentations. All friends are welcome. (7-30pm).

A "Twenty - third birthday party" is on the agenda for later on in the year... if it turns out anything like the "Twenty- first" it will be incredible (or as Brendan says 'ripper; and he wasn't even there).

Perennial favourites like the Puhoi trip where everyone takes a quick sip in the pool and a long swim in the ale! , will be posted on the board nearer the time.

In capping week we have our annual pub crawl and of course world famous FOUNTAIN CRAWL... yes you guessed in full dive gear!

Anyone with any good ideas for socials, etc. see Cathy or Phone 603 266 " for a goodtime ".



"Frigging  
out"  
the  
new  
Piggy

# FRESHERS CAMP

Last years freshers camp was a well organized affair. Roughly 80 people went, about 50 of the 80 were bunnies!!!

The weekend was a little damp but so were we most of the time. The basic training course culminates at this weekend for the "sea tests". This is usually quite intensive for the participants and generally leaves only the evenings for the exhausted folk to venture out with the rest of the "tough-guys" in the club. The high light of the weekend for most Bunnies is after their official sea test. One is usually allowed to "venture" forth into the "ocean" (but not too far) with just your buddy alongside!

Good luck to you all, have a good weekend - I will!!!

Brendan

## Freshers Camp : Past and Present SOCIAL ACTIVITES

Last year the evenings were spent around independant barbaques and cooking pots; which seemed to restrict the "social interactions" a little. This year we're hoping to get people more together!!

Perhaps by having torch light drinkies over a few cremated sausages For those of you who are true land lovers there are several good walks around the area. The walk around the coast to Leigh is particularly beatiful, providing one goes at low tide it is possible to get all the way there. The walk over to the isolated Pink Beach is enjoyable and a skimmy dip is particularly exhillarating (especially for the divers beneath).

For the divers, perhaps the chance to do a few night dives if the visibility permits - it can be fun!!

Hoping to see you all there

Cathy

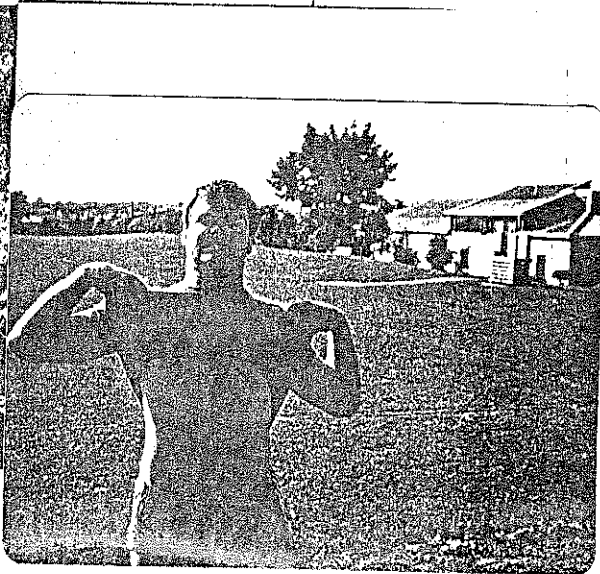
For any further info. see the club noticeboard or ring a committee member.

Dates - 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April

Location - Goat Island Bay



What is that?



TRIPS

With regard to trips-

If for any reason you can not go on a trip or decide you do not want to then let Dan know. Otherwise people will be waiting for you, other people would like to be going but you have taken their place, and also someone has to make up the money lost by you not turning up. This is usually the other people on the trip. So please be a responsible Dive club member!!!

Thanks

EDITORS BLURBAGE

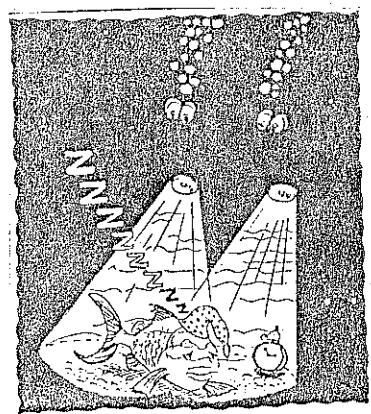
Yeh!  
the editor

Yippee!!



This is the second Flotsam I have done, and the first "reduced" one ever. Peoples opinions would be good to hear; good and bad (but please not too many bad). It is really good to have other kind, lovely, thoughtful, willing, ~~slaves~~ helpers, helping me. My typing is not the best, but so long as it is decipherable I think it is OK. Be careful not to confuse my typing with the talented typist extraordinaire Leah Moore, whose skillful fingers tapped out the Three Kings article in all it's length and others too. Photocopying is time consuming but at least this time the time as well as the size of the pages is reduced. Don't feel like your article is not good enough for others to read as you can judge the remarkable quality and literary talents of some of these articles as a comparison. So if you want to contribute then do. muchous grassius to my slaves -

Brian Annette Steven Peter Leah And Chris  
Love Jillian.



Night Diving