

FLOTSAM



MARCH 1985

PRESIDENT'S BIT

OK Dive Clubbers, this is your President speaking. The object of my raving here is to introduce our new members to our past victories, present activities and future challenges and also to encourage your active participation in these coming events so that your name too can be added to the glorious ranks of our "established" members.

Firstly may I congratulate you on your decision to join our illustrious Club (no comments from older members please). Our first major event this year is the FRESHERS CAMP to Oputere Bay, down Coromandel way, on 30-31 March. This is a social gathering to get us all together and meet everyone or someone, hear lots of hair raising stories from experienced divers and to eat, drink and have fun. This then is not a dive trip as such, although if you can dive bring your gear or test out your snorkelling ability. If you are doing the Dive Course and don't have any gear ie mask, snorkel and fins yet this camp should give you the opportunity to chat with some experienced divers about what's best suited for you and your bank account and maybe borrow some gear and try it out. As yet this event is still in the advanced planning stages so keep an eye on the noticeboard or come to the lunchtime meetings on Mondays in the Rec Centre Clubrooms.

Our most important event, as usual, is the organisation and running of the Dive Course. Here, once again, are the details: Registration Day April 3 6pm Room B10 (Library Basement) all wanting to take the course turn up to this meeting and pay up. Cost \$120. The course consists of one 3hr lecture every Wednesday evening from 6pm for three weeks and three corresponding weekend pool sessions. Just to round things off there's the Sea Test at Goat Island on the 4-5 May, the Club will be organising another Camp for this weekend. All you need for the course is a mask, snorkel and fins.

So once you're qualified you can take advantage of your newly aquired skills to experience the thrills on one of our many Club trips. This year John has trips organised to the Poor Knights, Aldermans, Great Barrier, Mokoia and more. Its the only way to experience some of the fantastic diving New Zealand has to offer - the more the merrier. See John Oliver at Club meetings or the noticeboard for more details.

What else can a raggy person like myself expect from the Dive Club? you might ask. I guess I should begin to tell you about some of the absolutely, amazing socials or opportunities for death, disorder, drinking and drowning (not necessarily in that order) that we have planned this year. However, since, as I write this, the first week of lectures is not yet over and committee has only so recently got back together, many of their brilliant ideas are still in the preplanning (a Nigel word) stages.

Instead I'll refresh your memories with a brief review of some of last years activities. The month of May saw the highly eventful Capping Week Raft Race, followed by a Dive Club traditional fountain crawl through all the downtown fountains in full diving regalia. Our challenge match (Soccer) against the Canoe Club was a bit of a disappointment due to lack of support but we'll show them this year, (that is if Ewan can decide which team he's playing for). The year was capped off by a very successful South Seas Fancy Dress Race which kept our financial head above water until now.

Underwater Hockey this year has already been quite eventful. Our B grade boys (and girl) played this week in a round robin against the lower A grade teams and may have the chance of moving up into the A grade. Bad news to those young and keen, we have only one team entered in the competition this year (ie no C grade) as U/W Hockey started a month before University did and we couldn't submit any more than one team early enough. Sorry folks.

There's not a lot more to say except to tell you of the gear we have available, well the Club boat at least along with its newly purchased outboard. No doubt Nigo will prattle about gear at some stage in this wonderful publication - any enquiries see Nigel Brady at Club meetings. I should too introduce Chris, Ewan, Brian, Peter, Jillian, Trevor, Lynette, Bruce, Dale, Brenda, Fraser and lots of others but you really should come to Club meetings and meet them for yourself. Don't forget to watch the noticeboard.

Keep bubbling and take care,

LEAH.

COMMITTEE 1985 : COMMITTEE 1985 : COMMITTEE 1985 : COMMITTEE 1985 : COMMITTEE 1985 :

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1) Poor Knights	Lady Jess	20-21 April	\$99 Dep: \$30
2) Aldermann Islands	Taranui	4-5 May	\$99 Dep: \$30
3) Poor Knights	Lady Jess	18-19 May	\$99 Dep: \$30
4) Great Barrier	Pegasus II	8-9 June	\$90 Dep: \$30
5) Aldermann Islands	Taranui	29-30 June	\$99 Dep: \$30
6) Mokohinau Islands	Pegasus II	6-7 July	\$90 Dep: \$30
7) Poor Knights	Lady Jess	20-21 July	\$99 Dep: \$30
8) Great Barrier	Pegasus II	3-4 August	\$90 Dep: \$30
9) Mercury/Aldermann (White Island ?)	Taranui	19-21 August (19-22)	\$150 Dep: \$70 (\$200 Dep: \$100)
10) Mokohinau Islands	Pegasus II	14-15 September	\$90 Dep: \$30

All prices are estimated and include transport and air fills.

GEAR BILLURB

~~Dear~~ ~~Dear~~ Here is the gears rave. Perhaps unbeknown to you - perhaps not - the Auckland University Underwater Club or AUUC (pron ORK) has a lot of gear - well it seems like a lot if you've got none! Anyway now that you are a member of ORK I mean AUUC you can make some of this gear your very own - for a day or two or maybe more. Of course things aren't free these days or even cheap - gone are the days you could hire a dive tank for the weekend for 2 cents. BUT against all odds, expectations and inflation gear hire charges are the same as last year. HOWEVER the gear hire system has been changed this year. A set of RULES for your GUIDANCE has been drawn up and if not strictly OBEYED you will be EXTERMINATED!!!

Here then is the gear and hire/deposit charges.

ITEM	CHARGE		Total**
	Hire	Deposit*	
2 72ft ³ Aluminium Tanks***	\$1	\$4	\$5
2 83ft ³ Aluminium Tanks	1	4	5
2 72ft ³ Steel Tanks	1	4	5
1 10Hp Johnson Outboard (could make a large decorative hat stand or anchor)			
1 10Hp Honda Outboard (new)	5	5	10
1 12ft Starcraft + trailer	5	5	10
1 12*18 Tent	5	5	10
Assorted smaller tents in various states of repair			neg
1 2 ring gas burner + cylinder	2	3	5
Various other bits and pieces...			

* Deposit is refundable if gear is brought back on time and in same condition as when taken ie tanks filled, tents dry, boat and motor cleaned and in working order etc.

** Total amount reaches me before you take the gear ie No money means NO GEAR! If you wish to book gear for later in the year ie holidays give me the money when you tell me otherwise no reservations.

*** Tank charges are per 2 days eg weekend, all other gear is per week. This is because tanks are usually a pretty hot item so its only fair on others who may want to use them eg during holidays.

These gear charges are minimal they are designed to cover operating and maintenance costs of the gear eg tank hydrostatic tests, boat trailer WOF, insurance etc. It is not a money making deal ie the money does not go into our beer fund although all other contributions to this fund are most welcome.

The GEAR HIRING RULES MKI will be posted on the notice board for you to gaze at when I feel like putting them there or a copy will be shown to you when/if you hire some gear OK!

So if you have any questions concerning gear or you'd like to hire some then see me (at club meetins or phone 2746081).

If you have any problems or complaints see the PRESIDENT!

THANKS

NIGE

SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS RAVE

RAPE, PILLAGE AND PLUNDER vs CONSERVATION

Every Club diver who intends taking shellfish or spearfishing is asked to make him/herself familiar with the amateur fishing and diving regulations. These can be obtained in pamphlet form from the M.A.F. office Federal St or may be found on the Dive Club noticeboard.

Only 6 Rock Lobster may be taken or possessed by any one diver at any time no matter the duration of the trip. Divers must therefore eat excess Rock Lobster or throw them back immediately to minimise the effects of emersion. It is essential that the Fisheries Act quotas are adhered to as the boat captains are liable to prosecution and the Club would lose trip bookings.

With regards to spearfishing the size limits are the same as for recreational fishermen. Divers are asked to spear only what is necessary for the pot. The spearing of sedentary Red Moki is frowned upon because of the important role these fish play in reef communities. Spearfishing should, ideally, be concentrated on widely ranging (pelagic) fish such as Trevally, Snapper, Kahawai, Barracouta, Kingfish etc and in fact this has been legislated at the Poor Knights Islands Marine Reserve.

The increase in the number of Marine Parks and Reserves can be seen to be due to the decline in stocks making it difficult for divers to catch a Cray in some places, let alone breach legal quotas. They also provide opportunity to appreciate our marine biota for study and photographic purposes. There are 4 Marine Parks in Northland and North Auckland and several more in the pipeline. This is as well as the Maritime Parks which exist in the Bay of Islands and Hauraki Gulf. Generally all biota in the Marine Parks and Reserves is protected but for exceptions such as spearing of pelagic fish. Exceptions such as these can be found by obtaining information sheets from the Lands and Survey Dept 14th floor of the State Building.

Members of AUUC are in a good position to gain an understanding of the marine world and its delicate ecological systems from the enthusiastic marine biologists in the Club, please use the opportunity to ask us heaps of questions. Learning about marine life is so much more satisfying than plundering it.

Dive safely, PETER DICKSON

"Good one," says Tank, "we're early, we'll be able to whip up to the Pub, have a beer and still get the best bunks." It was not to be however, so a jug later we headed back to the wharf to find the bow cabin fully occupied. Never mind, we always did sleep better to the gentle hum and soothing vibration of diesel power beneath our bunks in the galley.

Sailing at midnight, watches sorted out, a fruitless attempt at sleep until the 4am watch Leah and I had been fortunate to draw and we motored up to White, anchoring alongside Volkner Rock at about 9am, thanks to the good old autopilot - no thanks to Dan who decided to over-ride the autopilot and let us do a few 360's before resuming our course.

A strange trick of early morning light during our watch made me wonder briefly about our President's sea legs, but of course there is no way our esteemed President was really as green as she appeared on such a flat sea.

Dropping into the water and gliding down seventy feet the first impression was the lovely warm water which seemed to suit the speckled morays which lurked in such abundance alongside the practise bombs hurled into this piece of seabed by our RAF. Schools of Trevalli and Mao-mao interspersed by the occasional Kingfish set a pattern to be repeated in later dives in this area.

Breakfast, then a snorkel chasing Kingi's around the upper reaches of Liason's Reef was an impressive demonstration of the power of all but the smallest of these fish - Dan being an astute enough judge of his capabilities to tackle a Kingfish which must have been a very difficult target to hit, much was its impressive size.

Some highly skilled snorkellers, who had motored the 32 odd miles in a little Haines Hunter were happily filling the little boat with Kingi's, most of which appeared to be killed outright at quite considerable depths, such was the skill of this trio of divers.

Fishing close to this spot some time later was a little boring. Immediately the bait hit the bottom a small Kingi would strike and be hauled struggling to the surface. Most of us had a go, and even these small specimens seemed to put up a fairly reasonable fight. Tank and I dived this reef later in the day, fighting a very strong current throughout the dive, but the life and the sheer size of the fish, including a couple of the biggest Leatherjackets (XXCS) I have ever seen, brought home the relative isolation of this group of Islands.

Later in the day we all rowed ashore to admire the crater and its associated red and yellow chemical deposits, steam rising everywhere, and a long deserted sulphur mine - overall a strikingly bleak area. The whole Island is notable for its almost complete lack of living vegetation apart from a few scrubby areas on the cliff lines farthest from the sulphurous crater.

A good night's sleep, another dive at Club Rock, unsuccessful longlining and John Young decided, in homage to a possible approaching cyclone, that we should depart a little early to Mayor Island.

A 19 mile motor NE to a reef for another spot of longlining gave us a little time to relax on the bow and get totally burnt and rid ourselves of a little excess weight upsetting the balance of the fridge. A mammoth effort in a slight chop (or was it our alcohol effected equilibrium) and John and I managed a simply divine spaghetti bolognaise, but our longlining was once again unsuccessful. Mike did however manage to precipitate an earthquake felt all around the Bay of Plenty when his longline anchor hit the bottom.

More lulling daisels ensured a restful trip back to Mayor Island. Breakfast and a quick jaunt ashore to admire some of the Island's famous attractions - notably some sleepy females and an alcohol supply.

Tahua Reef. Octopus wrestling, sponges animated by Walt Disney, dancing to an audience of Demoiselles and Kingfish, and yours truly a little narced, as in completely faceless, though showing remarkable control throughout. All in all an amazing dive topped off through necessity with a good decoke session.

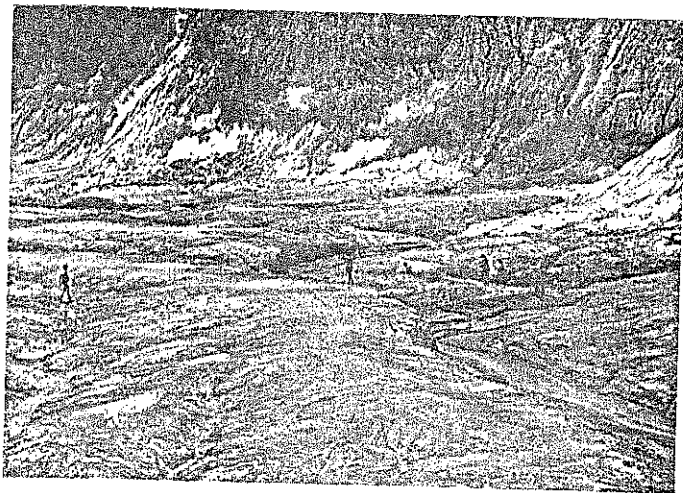
Snorkelling one of the Southern Bays of the Mayor provided a few unremarkable crayfish though undersized specimens were out in force, a trend I had noticed during quite a few Coromandel dives over the summer - many cray's but almost without exception undersized. Some very pretty shallow water growths close in shore however. Another scuba dive for a sparse seafood dinner and back to se Bay for New Year's Eve.

We had a ball at the Game Fishing Club for New Years - even a band that played some quite ragey covers. The only criticism that I could mention was the abundance of broken glass scattered around the beachfront bar. Anyway back to the Taranui for a very sound nights sleep after emergency surgery on my foot from John.

A dive below the cliff faces of the Northern side of Mayor was unremarkable, I'm told, and a quick cray dive on a rock just off Slipper Island and it was back to Tairua wharf and homeward bound.

A great trip, perhaps a little disappointing in terms of seafood, but plenty of good diving and we are after all conservationists - aren't we?

MARK ARMSTRONG.



THREE KINGS 1984 : THREE KINGS' 1984 : THREE KINGS 1984 : THREE KINGS 1984 : THREE KINGS

The trip to the Three Kings was really the highlight of the diving year. It lasted for nine days and cost approximately \$390. Thirteen guys went on the trip though one decided to stay home as he wasn't feeling too well by the time the Pegasus II reached Mimiwhangata.

The first dive was at the eastern most point of the Hen and Chicken Islands - not many poor helpless fish or crays were caught, much to the guys' disappointment, especially Dan whose left sinus was suffering due to a bit of post-exam over indulgence the day before. The Pegasus headed off for Sugar Loaf at the Poor Knights for the next dive, and the last dive of the day was at Waiwiri Rock. Visibility was only about 30ft but a few fish and crays were taken.

Arrived at The Kings on Sunday 11 Nov everyone excited especially with the prospect of hunting for treasure at a wreck site. First dive was on Virgin Reef about half a mile SE of Farmer rocks. Mike, Geoff, Tank and Dan dived here and went to about 140ft with 120ft visibility though there were a lot of jellyfish eggs floating at all levels which didn't help visibility. At Farm Rock the rest of the guys did their dive for the morning. After lunch the guys took the opportunity to do some snorkelling and sunbathing and the last dive of the day was at Farmer Rocks. Dan here had a bit of trouble with his spear gun as the spool fell off and rolled down about 20ft so luckily a few fish managed to escape their death for a while. After five minutes of mucking around with it he managed to fix it and carry on, and managed to take a large Pink Mao mao.

On Monday there was much enthusiasm as the Pegasus II arrived at the Elingamite site. The whole crew dropped into the water and headed straight for the wreck. Some of the guys had rigged suction hoses to their regulators so they could blow sand away to help in their search for treasure. Dan and Tank had success. At about 130ft they were sifting through the sand and they struck gold, they had found a coin. After much rejoicing they started to ascend. At about 90ft Dan caught a familiar glint out of the corner of his eye and zoomed down and there sitting on the sand was another one.

On Tuesday the first dive was at Arch Reef where Mike and Geoff observed a huge 'Puka' - probably about 150lb as he was so wide and fat. Afterwards everyone had a look at the Gannet colonies and in the afternoon two more sovereigns were recovered from below.

Farm Rock was where the first dive took place on Wednesday. The fish were so thick that Dan managed to drop two with one pull of the trigger. The rest of the morning was spent anchored in Tasman Bay and ashore examining the flora and fauna. That night some of the guys took part in a night dive.

Thursday proved a memorable day for Mike and Geoff as they dived at 'Callous Cave'. They entered the cave at 50ft and the floor was at 70-75ft the roof of the Cave was absolutely covered with red and soft corals. About halfway up a large Blue Moki zipped out of the cave while at the back hundreds of bright red fish about 1cm long schooled about. Outside the cave dense schools of Demoiselles, Pink Mao mao and huge Blue Mao mao were blotting out the surface light. Also large Hapuka and Kingfish were swimming up from the depths. A memorable experience which they recommend to anybody.

On Friday the last dive at the Three Kings was at Coombe's cave (named after our one and only great Mike Coombes). The Pegasus then headed for Cape Maria Van Demen where a good haul of mussels were taken from Mussel rock.

Early Saturday morning the Pegasus II dropped anchor in the Whangaroa Harbour. In the morning after a trip to Totara North for water and newspapers they stopped at the Harbour entrance and took a good haul of scallops. At Huahine School Dan found a huge anchor with a wire rope attached, as a memento Dan managed to recover the shackle and ascended to show the others. In actual fact the wire rope and shackle had been placed thereby the other divers in an effort to recover the anchor. You could imagine the look on the others faces when he showed them the shackle.

At the Cavalis Dan again managed to get himself into trouble as he exceeded the time limits of the tables and after much checking, on board with Eric - the skipper, decided to go on oxygen for an hour and 3/4. He was believed to have a very very minor case of the bends, He was feeling very lucky afterwards and felt he learnt a very valuable lesson.

On Sunday Danger rock was where they had their first dive and Bergess Island was where the second dive took place.

Monday was the final day of the trip. At 6.30 that morning the guys geared up for the first dive at Maori Rocks. Here Tank managed to give everyone a real scare as he got separated from Dan while diving and when Dan surfaced after he had finished his dive he still could not find Tank, but apparently he had surfaced on the other side of the rock and had been hidden from their view for five minutes or so.

Little Barrier was the last place that they dived, their last opportunity to get crays and fish and boy did they make good use of their time. After 4 1/2 hours in the water and a few sacks of crays later they returned aboard. At 4.30 they left for home and with the tide against them they didn't get home until 10.30, but a tired and a thoroughly satisfied bunch they were.

Adapted from "The Three Kings Epic" by Dan Steinman for us by

Lynette Hudson.



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FOR SALE : One pair of fins - we don't know what kind they are or how much because Chris didn't get his advert in on time - nor did anyone else for that matter. c'mon get your act together. Anyway if anyone is interested in Chris's fins ring him at 760891 after varsity. *Their's Rocket fins (never used)*
Chris's