

Flotsam

1998 In Review – A Double Issue



Inside: A review of 1998, Memorable moments,
Our Yah-Nah List.

The Prez's Piece

Hey guys, hows it going?

I know we've been really slack, no flotsam for months. But hey, this will be the issue to make up for all that. Anyway if you wanted to know what was going on, use the phone ! That's about as close to an apology as I get so tuff.

What a truly great year it's been. We've had heaps of trips, loads of keen divers and only one day of a charter canned due to bad weather. The diving all year has been a bit up and down with the hotter water and occasional big storm wreaking havoc with the vis. One wonders what awaits us in a few years, I spent new year's diving in the Doubtless Bay area in 23 degree water !!! Phew bring on the shorty suits. More seriously though is the news that much of Great Barrier Reef is being bleached due to the hot water. The coral is pure white, dead, and eventually covered in green algae. Water temp at some locations has even reached 36 °. The downside for N.Z would be more toxic blooms, and lethal jellyfish but hopefully we'd get heaps of new varieties of fishies to dive with.

On a more financial theme is the happenings of the A.U.S.A. We had some very interesting meetings with your students association. The beginning of the year had us being told that diving was a luxury sport and we should investigate doing more dives from the shore (hmmmm, Rainbow Warrior, Leigh reef and the Poor Knights all spring to mind). But the end of the year had A.U.S.A running scared due to the pending vote on voluntary student membership. This meant they were practically throwing money at clubs in an effort to promote compulsory membership. I wish we knew this sooner and had asked for more money. Never mind, how sad. We are currently selling of some of our old tanks and are looking at buying new ones, (two of the old tanks are Luxfer's which have a nasty habit of exploding!).

Happy safe diving and don't forget to JOIN THE DIVE CLUB IN 1999.

If you missed out on some charters then join the club and reserve your place now. We will be going to White island again at the end of the year and usually only have seven places available. We will be going to the Rainbow Warrior again for more super cheap diving. And any other locations people want to go to.

ORIENTATION, (huh, oh wow how can I help)

Yes, that's right it's orientation '99 soon and I know your all dead keen to help (look out the window, it's a flying pig). But seriously PLEASE, PLEASE can some people help with the dive club stall. The stall is only there from 10am to 2pm mon-fri, and all we want you to do is sit there and give people some info and maybe smile. Remember when you were a poor lost soul at uni in search of the dive club and the overwhelming joy that filled you when you found the stall ??

Any help at all is needed, even one hour for one day of the week is helpful. If nothing else you might be able to impress members of the opposite sex with exciting and adventurous diving stories !!

PLEASE HELP TO ENSURE THE DIVE CLUB LIVES.

The Auckland Uni Dive Club Yah and Nah List

<i>YAAAAHHHHH!!!!!!</i>	<i>NAAAAHHHHH!!!!!!</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of keen and enthusiastic divers • I'm medically trained, I can help you! (the mantra of those with PADI Medic First Aid Certificates). • Stirlings Dive Shop for their great service to poor hard-up university students. • Seaquel Wetsuits • Free camping at Mahineapua (Thanks John) • Jeremy Gibbons for his cheap advanced and rescue courses. • The fountain crawl. • Aquaction, Marty (The Orca), John (Ma Cherie) • La Nina for its nice warm water. • Safety sausages (ask Josie, Jo, Glen or Glyn) • The Auckland Uni Dive Club Committee! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diving is a luxury sport.-AUSA Executive • Cathedral Cove Dive, just ask Josie • MV Galilee, the boat chartered for the Great Barrier trip • Long stringy stingy thingy's at Leigh • Luxfer (E6498 / SP6498) dive tanks with free amputations available. • La Nina with its crap viz and high seas.

The Trips you missed or did not in 1998.

- Goat Island and Leigh Reef (March)

This was a great opportunity for everyone to get to know each other and get some cheap diving done. Leigh reef is only really accessible when the current is slack, as Glyn found out when he got swept out to sea.

- Poor Knights (twice)

Always a favourite. And one of the best dive sites in the world. Enough said.

- Aldermans (It was meant to be Mayor Island but we took the better option). Awesome diving just like the Knights but no reserve in sight!!

- Weekend trip to the Aldermans

So good we went back, the only charter we had that got shite weather.

- Rainbow Warrior.

What can we say, free camping, great diving, bloody cheap and a secret cray spot.

- Rawhiti and Cape Brett.

Serene bays, big crayfish, no petrol in the boat, ooopps !!

- Russell to Paihia Snorkel Race and post-race charter to Cape Brett
Wooahoo we fielded two teams, finished 6th and 8th (which is also 6th and last) and had 2 dives at Cape Brett and a scallop dive.
- Fountain crawl.
Drunk and disorderly in every major fountain in the C.B.D. including the Sky City crap waterfall !!
- Weekend at Great Barrier
Unfortunately the vis was not too good nor the weather, and the skipper was probably just released from the loony bin. Oh well.
- Hahei
Weather cancelled all hopes of diving (and the boat not going) but drunken twister should be in the next Olympics.
- Whitianga and Opito Bay
Awesome place, average diving but holy shit the club boat got to play with two ORCA and their puppy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Oh yes, very jealous of Peter and Arné.
- White Island
What can we possibly say but @#!%ing White Island WOO HOO. Rumble, rumble, lava, lava and cool diving.

What people have learnt this year.

- Multiple uses for dive fins : as handy pieces of equipment used to dig your car out of soft sand after an attempt at a beach launch. (Jo and Glen)
- That no parking signs on the end of a busy Whangamata pier mean what they say. (Melissa)
- Diagrams indicating the direction batteries should be inserted in brand new dive torches should be followed. (Don't worry Frances, Greg didn't tell a soul.)
- Pontoon boats float far too well to be a submarine : luckily! (Jo and Glen)
- Cathedral Cove Dive, despite excellent reviews, are crap. (Josie and Rob)
- Diving deep to spear a kingfish at 30m with little air is a sure fire way to land you in the hyperbaric chamber. (Arjan)
- Acute paranoia can occasionally have similar symptoms to the bends. (Holger)
- Drinking large quantities of alcohol at the fountain crawl may land you in detox for several hours. (Glyn and Thomas)
- How not to play spoons. (Andrew)
- How to tell the difference between a barracouta and an orca. (Peter and Arne)
- Not to select a short sighted person to act as lookout in a rescue situation. (Josie)
- Alcohol increases your flexibility for playing twister : or dulls the pain! (Josie, Glen, Rob, Holger, Eugene)

Stirlings Dive Shop

349 Dominion Rd. Mt Eden, Auckland.

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email nwalker@xtra.co.nz

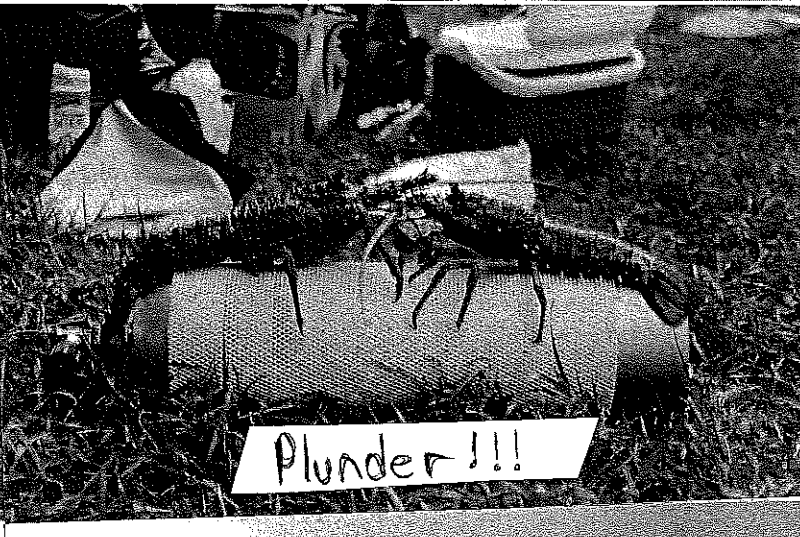
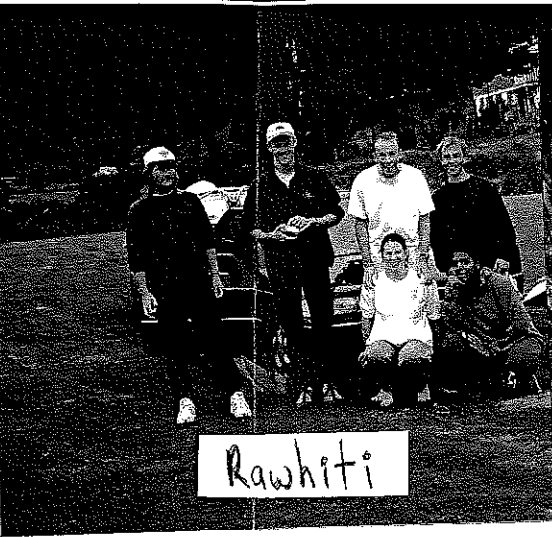
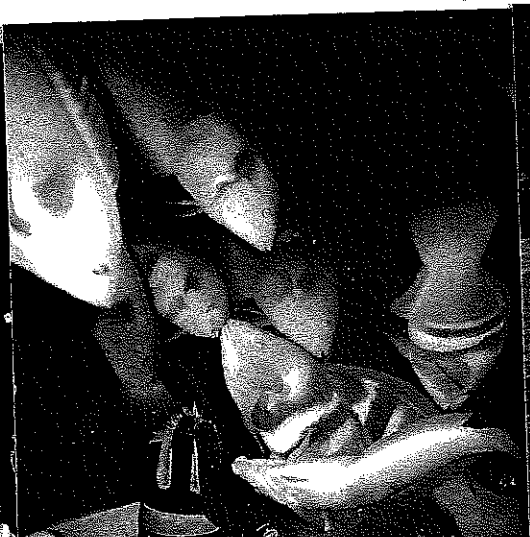
SHERMAN'S LAGOON



Stirlings support our club, and have done so for a long time. So show them the type of loyalty that the Uni dive club has.

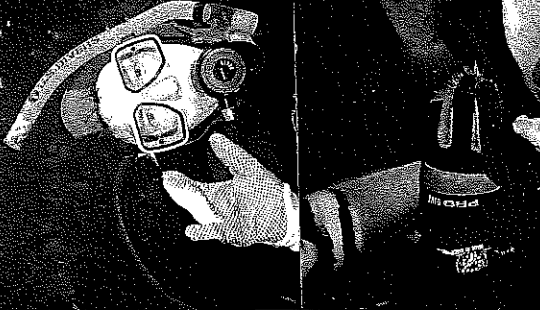
BEFORE you buy, rent, beg, steal, or borrow your gear, talk to the team at Stirlings.

They won't rip you off.



Rawhiti

Plunder!!!



Poor Knights



Easter "Cyclone"



Fountain Crawl 98



White Island



Feeding Fish



SEAQUEL

W E T S U I T S

WOW!!!!

As a member of the unique and exclusive Dive Club you will receive discount at Seaquel products. When you travel with the Dive Club you will notice at least 90% of members use Seaquel wetsuits. They must be good.

Custom made or Standard off the shelf.

Full repairs and alterations.

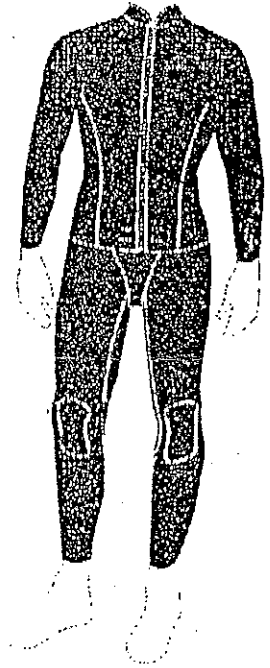
Cheap Factory direct prices.

Ultra, super nice friendly people who financially support the dive club.

As we are a loyal bunch of poor student divers we should give them our full support.

As a result of our undying devotion for Seaquel wetsuits they are the contractor for the NAVY and other elite organizations.

Don't hesitate in showing them the support they have shown us!!!!



SEAQUEL PRODUCTS LIMITED

Phone/Fax (09) 443-2771

15G Porana Road

Glenfield

The New Committee 1999

It was great to see so many people at our AGM. Probably the first time in recent history that a quorum had been reached. Bribery of prizes and free nibbles probably helped, as did abit of desperate pleading.

But, alas, there are no new faces in our committee.

President: Glen Alexander

Secretary: Jo Goudie

Treasurer: Glyn Jones

Gears Officer: Josie leaves in May, so Glen and Jo will be taking over around the start of the year.

Stuff all pillaging divers should know

- The spiny rocklobster (crayfish – the red ones) minimum limit
54mm across the second tail segment for a male, one paddly thing on each side of each section of the tail.
60mm across the second tail segment for a female, two paddly things on each side of each section of the tail.
- The packhorse rock lobster (crayfish – the green one) minimum limit.
216mm tail length.
- 5 crayfish per person is permitted per day.
- You must not collect paua or mussels while diving.

MAF will get a little shitty if you violate the rules, and we don't fancy your chances of keeping your boat, dive gear or car if you get caught – it will probably get confiscated.

The way I figure, the more crayfish we leave in the water, by only taking what we need, the easier it will be to find them when they're bigger later.

Websites for the online ones

- The essential Dive New Zealand site
www.divenewzealand.com

Links everywhere, charterboat contact details and lots more. Highly recommended. And check out the pictures from the Oceanz Photography Competition!

- Stirlings Dive Shop
www.stirlingsdive.co.nz

Abit of self promotion for neil and greg. But it also have their dive club trip schedule and openwater courses online.

- Auckland Uni Dive Club
www.aaleda.co.nz/unidive.htm

Its our trial dive site, so check it out. Feel free to give ideas for expansion, or volunteer for some web site design work.

- Rodale's Scuba Diving
www.scubadiving.com

Full of interesting stuff, but beware the message boards, prepare to get flamed!

The White Island Diary written by Jo

(ultra keen divers: Josie, Jo, Glen, Holger, Rob, Leigh, Lachlan)

On the Thursday evening, apparently, there was a warning on the national news that White Island was going through an active phase, and that all boats should keep their distance.

Fortunately, we didn't hear about this until we returned from the trip.

The boat, the *Ma Cherie* left Whakatane at 6:15am on the Saturday morning. This would have been a little difficult to organise, except that we spent the night before on the boat, and the first we knew of departure was when the diesels chugged into life. Roused by the noise, I went into the main cabin and was immediately offered a hot drink of my choice. Josie didn't even wake up until an hour from our destination.

The island itself is amazing. The clouds seemed to hang in the sky, slowly changing from white steam to an ominous grey. It was quite barren, but the birds still nested there.

Unfortunately, the sea sickness ratio was 4/7, Leigh and Lachlan suffered the worst, with vocal and graphic displays just before diving. Josie was safe with her Sea Legs tablets, but Holger, shortly after a declaration that he didn't feel sick was soon hanging over the side. The first mate, Ben, was kept busy ferrying glasses of water and napkins to the ill ones.

Our first attempt at a dive on a reef was aborted after a strong current forced the divers to be dragged from the rear of the boat to the stern for a descent down the anchor rope. Fighting that kind of water seemed distinctly unappealing, so we opted for a new site.

So our first dive was on Volkner rocks, a set of rocks to the west of white island. We descended down a wall to a depth of 18m. There were many caves and swim-throughs. The first Lord Howe Coralfish were seen. They're beautiful little fish that seem both shy and curious at the same time. Ignoring the divers they hung around a single location without apparent fear. It's times like this that underwater cameras would be great. The deimoselles in the area were vigilantly defending their carefully cleared patch of rock.

Our second dive was at another location on the same set of rocks. At one time it had been used as a target, so we were warned to expect pieces of rocket. Lots of little caves and crevices were perfect holes for the dozens of morays. There were a kind of fish, smaller than deimoselles but similar in shape and beautifully coloured in yellow and red which peeked from a small gap in the rocks to investigate the divers but couldn't quite get over their fear.

On ascending, Glen Josie and I missed the edge of the rocks and were caught in a largish current heading out to the Pacific. Never fear, Josie inflated her trusty safety sausage. Worth their insignificant weight in crayfish, I think. Would have been one hell of a long swim back to the boat.

The night dive was one near the old sulphur works on the island. Only the ultra keen few went: Glen, Holger, Rob and Josie went. It was dark (always a bonus on a night dive) and the bottom was covered in piles of ash. Understandably, this didn't do much for the visibility. Glen found a large packhorse in 11m of water. Definitely legal, but full of eggs.

After a good nights sleep we were ready to face another tough day in the middle of the ocean with nothing to do except dive. Our dive site was called *The Slip*, apparently because it looks like a landslide on side-scan sonar. Leigh couldn't dive because her ears were blocked. There were heaps of fish, everywhere you looked.

Purple feathered nudibranches were there, and banded shrimp were seen as well. A beautiful dive which only lack of air forced us to ascend.

Our last dive was at South Rock, on White Island. I suppose, one of the highlights of this one was finding a packhorse crayfish that redefines HUGE when used in terms of crayfish. Not quite the sort of thing you would want to wrestle to the surface after a long days diving. Right beside it was an equally large granddaddy hapuka. There was a swim through further along the coast but we didn't get there. By all accounts it was well worth the swim.

I guess White Island can be summed up by a few words, has to be dived to be believed. I hear that another vent has opened up on the island, leading to some even more spectacular displays of ash. Now there are even more warnings to stay away from the island. Now I know that not many people knew about the planned trip, I'm really sorry about that. But never fear, the charter will be run again provided everyone is still keen.

Contact Details

Glen and Jo have both moved into a flat in Ellerslie. So their phone numbers have changed. And Jo has begun work (salary!) at Fisher & Paykel Healthcare, so she's added another email address to her collection.

Glen Alexander → 525-7383
grimace@clear.net.nz →

Jo Goudie →
goudiej@fphcare.fp.co.nz
toolgirl@clear.net.nz

Josie Barclay 623-3928
jbarclay@scitec.co.nz

THANX

A huge thanks must go out to Stirlings Dive shop for their help, be that financial, friendly, or just supplying gear. Seaquel wetsuits get the big thanks for their financial support of the dive club and also for making awesome wetsuits and selling them to us really cheap.

Thanks also to Josie who has dealt with a lot of stuff during the year and has given a lot of time to making this one of the best years in recent history. Sadly (for us only) she's off on a big OE in May and we will all miss her. All the best and good luck.