

Flotsam

Issue 3 1999 - September



White Island Crayfish. Need we say more?

Prez's Word (written by Jo because Glen is a hardworking student)

Hello boys and girls. Spring has finally arrived, not that it was a particularly cold or long winter. As is perfectly understandable when the water temperature is 16 degrees and below, many dive club members have made the pilgrimage to where the water is in its snowboardable (or ski-able) and solid state. But you know that, when you can walk around town in a t-shirt, it is time to start getting back in the water. Dust off your wetsuit (repair all your rips and tears), dig out your regs and get out there and do it.

Sub tropical fish have been found in unexpected places in large numbers. There are four Lord Howe Coralfish resident in Cathedral Cave in the Bay of Islands in July, and many were seen at the Poor Knights in recent weeks. White Island also drew more than its usual quota of these lovely fish. Banded Coral Shrimp were seen on a night dive at Motiti Island, as well as at the poor knights.

If you're looking at buying gear, you might want to consider buying Stirlings Dive Shops ex-rental BCDs and wetsuits. Prices can be found in their advertisement. Also, Stirlings are organising a "Discover Diving" course in October for FREE. So if you know anyone who might want to give diving a trial run before doing their course, contact stirlings.

Quite a few ultra keen divers have moved on to bigger and better things. Carola "no I wont sing in your car" Wassvik has moved onto graduate school in Sweden, and Peter "dont kiss an electric fence" Kulka is on the job market in germany, complete with a new haircut ☺. Arne, who left NZ in April, has finally made it to Norway after bumming around Australia for a few months (its a tough life for him). Charles, of "I'm not moving off this chair" fame, has become Officer Charles at Auckland Central Police Station. Also, for those of you that know him, Holger "I think I have the bends" Zipfel should be back in the country by the end of this week.

Fortunately we've had the addition of a few more members over the last month, and look forward to building up keen diver numbers as summer approaches.

Trips

BEEN AND GONE

White Island. (Glen, Jo, Adrian, Carmen, Peter, Rob, Stefanie)

What can I say, I love the place. Blue water is the greatest, and I'm really looking forward to going back. Saw heaps of Lord Howe Coralfish and Clown Toados. The water was 17 degrees, and after 2 three dive days we were all pretty bugged. But at the same time, with a skipper like John Baker and dive sites like Diadema Rock, North Face and Club Rocks, we were hyped up enough to book another charter for December. See Carmens crayfish on the front cover!!

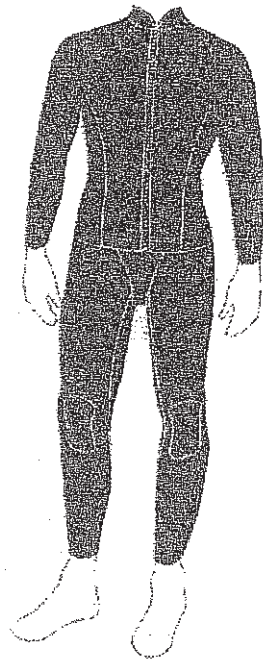
Seaquel Wetsuits



This family run company, have gone out of their way to make wetsuits affordable for club members.

The 10% discount is great, and so is their friendly, no-pressure service. All styles and uses are supplied, from spearfisher camo-suits to super speedy triathlon long johns and 7mm full dive suits.

Everything you need to keep you warm in the water.



**For super friendly people and super cheap wetsuits, see:
Seaquel Wetsuits
15G Porana Rd
Glenfield
443-2771**

Paihia to Russell (Adrian, Carmen, Glyn, Fiona, Rob, Stefanie, Mike, Carola, Jo, Glen, Frances)

It was abit of a struggle to get numbers on this charter, but in the end everything worked out fine. After a very social Friday night with traditional night-before-race drinking. On Saturday the race started late as is traditional. We had convinced race officials to allow us to have one extra snorkeller, as 6 really wanted to participate. We had to promise not to win, which was no great difficulty. So Glyn, Glen, Rob, Carola, Frances and Mike-the-non-diver-so-far swam for glory. Jo waited aboard the diver support boat with great interest. 1st boat to the diver boat was, predictably, a Bluefins team with their three foot long fins. The steering on board the boat had broken, so they had to get towed by the Coastguard, and they still won the race in just on 1 hr. We managed to get rid of the toilet seat that we "won" last time and were placed 7th out of 9. It would not have taken much training (as much as I hate that word) to take us out of seventh place and into fourth, we all arrived home within a 10 minute bracket.

The Sunday charter aboard the Maraŕeta was good, with Mick as our skipper. One divesite was Cathedral Cave (complete with the four Lord Howe Coralfish I mentioned earlier). Strong current at the entrance made for an interesting swim back to the boat.

Last dive was, as is traditional, a scallop dive. Scallops were thick on the ground, but many were undersized.

Motiti Island. (Adrian, Carmen, Laurie, Alistair, Hadyn, Aaron, Glen, Jo)

Wasn't too impressed with the start of our trip, a phone call from a certain member at 7:30pm on Friday saying "oh, I forgot to pick up my divegear from Stirlings". Lucky for him, it was ski season and Junction Ski and Underwater keep extended hours so they can collect rental gear. Of course, at \$120 for a weekend (\$35 more than Stirlings) the price was paid.

Up bright and early aboard the Lady Sophia, a very nice old launch with all the toys except an air compressor. 24 tanks later (on one side to preserve gearing up room) the boat had developed a distinct list. Off we went to Plate Island for our first dive. Unfortunately no seals were resident at the time; we would have loved the opportunity to see them while diving. :-)

Our second dive at Astrolabe reef, brilliant. Lots of fish, schools of kahawai, a few kingfish, beautiful kelp and sponges on it as the depths dropped to well below 30m. Strong surge and current though, would have made photography difficult. A few pink mao mao below 20m, and a stingray feasting on what appeared to be a nautilus.

Back to Tauranga for fills. An opportunity for us to case the local dive shop and christen one of our members as "Dumpster". On the night dive, the ultra keen blokes Glen, Laurie, Alistair and Aaron set off, and Glen found a crayfish as soon as he hit the ground. Unfortunately it was in berry, but always a good sign for a night dive. Also spotted was a banded coral shrimp, lots of small Moreton Bay Bugs, and luminous anemones.

Dive Club BBQ (aka AGM)

Saturday 16th October
from 6pm

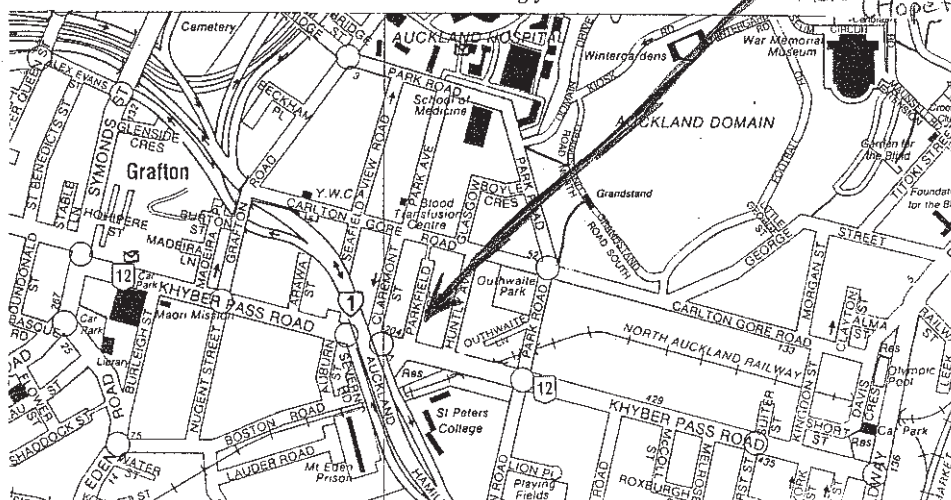
To be held at:
Adrian and Carmens house
6 Parkfield Tee
Grafton

Election of Officers will happen when we think we have enough members in attendance. Eating and drinking will commence at 6pm, and continue until we run out. The party may then continue at an undecided Auckland Central venue.

Please, if you intend to drink, take a bus, taxi or arrange a non-drinking ride.

The club will provide sausages, munchies and a few drinks. There will also be a selection of seafood (thanks to the members of the Manakau Heads Mission). If you would like to join the Manakau Heads Mission, to take place on Sat 16th October during the day, please ring Glen on 525-7383.

Look forward to seeing you all there.



Members List

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Brian and Lucy Tomlinson	522-1508	
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Young-hwan Han	(09)299-9956	
Zhara Champion	815-6350	championz@agriquality.co.nz

A good sleep later (except for Glen who was in close vicinity to the skipper, aka Chainsaw Bob), the forecast 25 knot NW didn't arrive. Glassy calm water meant we had our pick of dive sites. On the north side of "Cave Rock", we picked up a few kahawai with little effort, before diving and many people brought up crayfish.

We cruised on off to Okaparu Reef, but the skipper ran over some craypot buoys which tangled around one of the props. This delayed us while Laurie dived under the boat in moderate swells and attempted to cut off and untangle the rope without knocking himself unconscious. This delay cancelled our second dive of the day, as if we wanted a scallop dive we had to be back in the harbour at slack tide. So we returned to Tauranga harbour, for scallops.

TRIPS COMING UP

At the moment, many of you are in exam study mode, and diving is not a priority. For this reason, no charters have been booked. For the moment, diving with the club will be limited to either club trips using the club boat, or use of our group discount with Pacific Hideaway. This is because most charters are only viable with 8-10 keen divers. Pacific Hideaway allow a group of 5 or more to dive the Poor Knights for \$60. This is a great deal, many Tutukaka companies are now charging \$90 for the same trip.

October 16th	Cray and scallop mission for AGM at Manakau heads
November 13th+14th	Club trip to Bland Bay (south of Cape Brett). El cheapo trip (ie you'll be in tents) to blue water dive sites in the area. Post exam celebration.
December 4th + 5th	White Island trip (full)
January 15th + 16th	Waikawau Bay (Coromandel) club trip. Another cheap one.
Late Jan/Early Feb	Great Barrier charter (to be researched).

Classified Advertisements

TENTS FOR SALE

The dive club has 3 tents which are not getting used. So if you want a cheap family sized tent, and are prepared to do some work to improve their waterproofness, you can have the tents (or parts thereof) in exchange for any small donation to the dive club. Contact Glen or Jo 525-7383

MOUNTAIN BIKE

Glen has an old mountain bike he wants to get rid of. Hardly used, its in immaculate condition. Asking only \$30 Ring Glen or Jo 525-7383

Thesis Research

Kirsty Rorke, a masters student of psychology and fellow dive club member, is doing her thesis on "Risk Perception among Scuba Divers". She is looking for divers of any experience level to complete a 10 minute questionnaire. The aim of the study is to figure out whether your perception of the risk of scuba diving and your diving experience affects how you behave in the water. It will also address who is to blame when accidents happen and the effect of accidents on diving behaviour. Anyone interested in completing the survey or getting more information can contact Kirsty on 815-7050 or email k.rorke@auckland.ac.nz

Stirlings Dive Shop

349 Dominion Rd,
Mt Eden

Ph (09)630-0178
Fax (09)631-5900

<http://www.stirlingsdive.co.nz>

These guys understand how poor us diving students get. For that reason, they offer us 10% discount off normal retail prices, not to mention easy repayment options for those of us making larger purchases.

SPECIAL:

Ex-rental BCDs \$350
(Buy the same one new for \$799!)

Ex-rental Wetsuits \$100-\$250
(Depending on condition).

FREE DISCOVER DIVING COURSE!!!

On October 16th and 17th, anyone interested in giving scuba diving a try, can do so from 10am, and every hour after that until 3pm, at Newmarket Pool. Nice safe dive (no sharks.. guaranteed!), under the supervision of Neil and his trusty instructors. All you need to bring is your togs and your pool entry money.

Support Stirlings!!! They support us!!!

Courses

Contact the Glen or Jo to book your place on either one of these courses.

ADVANCED COURSE will be running after exams. This will only cost \$130 (as opposed to nearly \$300 at a dive shop) and include use of club set of manuals. It will involve doing 5 dives (including a night dive) from the club boat, probably at Leigh. So if you want to get your confidence up and gain experience diving under the supervision of our instructor, Jeremy, this is the ideal opportunity.

RESCUE COURSE will cost \$230, including the use of the club set of manuals. If you want to learn how to deal with emergency situations, this is the course for you. You must have completed your advanced, and also a first aid course. Will involve a few weeknights of theory plus one full weekend. Will be running in the summer break.

Dive Club BBQ (aka AGM)

The date has been set as Saturday 16th of October. We will be holding it at Adrian and Carmen's from 6pm. The club will provide some drinks, munchies and sausages for the occasion. Expect the social part to far outweigh any formal niceties. Election of officers will begin when we think we have enough people. Anyone who wishes to apply for the committee should ensure that they either attend or advise the current committee. Directions can be found in the middle of this issue of flotsam.

Committee positions has advantages, firstly and most importantly, free gear rental for gears officer, and the opportunity to put yourself on every trip for trips officer. President and Secretarial positions are generally highly social ones, you will know everyone in the club by the end of the year. Treasurer (ie a beanie) gets to do the easiest job. All this also looks great on your cv and pretty impressive during job interviews.

A group of divers will be heading out to the manakau heads in the morning of the 16th to collect some seafood to help feed you all. So if you would like to join them, ring Glen on 525-7383. The manakau heads is a surprising divesite - last time seals and seahorses were spotted, not to mention heaps of crayfish.

Meetings

If you want to know anything about the summer diving planned, the AGM is the place to be. We'll discuss and decide on a summer meeting venue (preferably either a pub or a beach) there. They will probably still be run every two weeks, taking a break over Christmas / new year.

Fundraising

Got some good fundraising ideas?? Bring them along to the AGM.