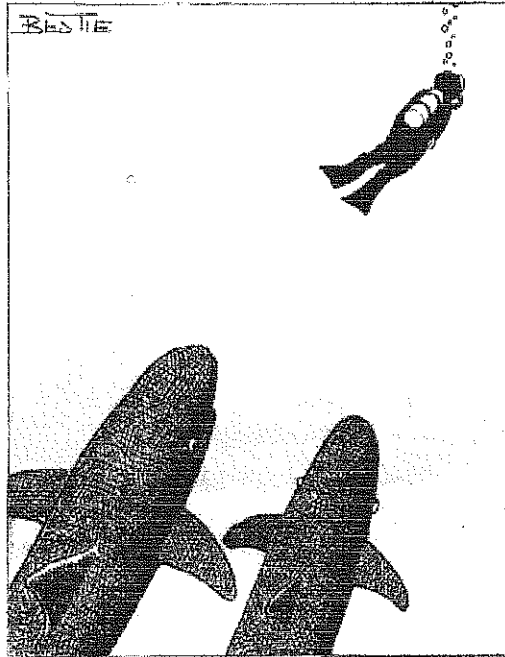


FLOTSAM



"DON'T EAT THE HARD BIT ON ITS BACK,
THEY MAKE YOU FART!"

**THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY UNDERWATER CLUB**

**ISSUE ONE
2002**

Gidday, this is supposed to be a more regular publication but the committee is a little short staffed this year so what the hell. I hope you're all having fun at university (or whatever deviant practices you undertake from day to day), and I hope you are all going diving. We definitely haven't seen everyone diving yet so get motivated! The water's still warm and the vis is getting better! So far this year we've had some pretty fine diving as well as lots of fun and some random drunkenness, here's a quick rundown:

Fresher's Weekend

Since this was so long ago my memory ain't too hot but as I remember it no-one died or even got hurt. Yay! Everyone got out diving and, I think, had a good time. Although nobody saw anything out-there (like a green turtle ha ha) everyone got to hang out with the usual masses of snapper, mao mao and blue cod.

We stayed the night at Pakiri camping ground – where you have to pay for *everything* – and settled in for a few quiets.

Day two left only four dedicated divers but only two of those were serious about it. I won't comment on the other two (myself included). (*I'll comment! – Hud went diving sans wetsuit, baring all but what his 'magical Tui boxers' covered up – Prez.*)

Easter trip

This normally comes later in the schedule, but because of the clever people at Auckland Uni administration it came earlier in the semester. This was an excellent trip. From the first morning when at 9:00 am we opened a bottle of fine red wine the trip just got better. The first two days we had primo weather, morning three it packed in but then come the arvo it turned right again and day four had the best weather. Again everybody had some great diving and the only injury occurred to a former dive clubbie who was at the camping ground at the time. Aside from multiple dives on the Warrior (there was some debate about the moral issues in letting a dirty Frenchman dive on the Warrior) we also managed to dive at various spots around the Cavalli Islands. We caught several crayfish – Matt and I spent almost an entire dive trying to get one packy out of it's hole – and I also managed to shoot a large Butterfish (I'm writing it so I can say what I want!). Night three was going to be a night at the pub to watch the rugby but our designated driver (Matt) got a sniff of an open bottle of Vodka and went steadily downhill. Again my recollection is a little foggy but there was attempted murder of possums with Hawaiian slings, sleeping out in the rain and our distinguished President crawling around half-naked dry retching (photographs will be published in the next newsletter – *no comment - Prez*). An excellent trip all round.

Poor Knights – Waikato

The turn out for this trip was excellent. The first day was spent on Jonno's lawn ferrying people out to the Waikato shipwreck. This wreck has come a long way since I dived it last. For starters it has snapped in half. This allows for much easier and safer penetration. There is also a lot of new fish life hanging around the wreck, HEAPS of juvenile snapper, big eye and demoiselles on the wreck itself and kingfish patrolling the perimeter. There are signs that the algal growth on the wreck will soon take off, it will make for an interesting dive later in the year.

That night consisted of a few quiets that slowly turned into a few rowdies, we had an excellent venue right on the water front although we couldn't figure out how to light the brazier – eyesight is highly over-rated.

Everyone turned up on time to the charter next morning and only a few looked a bit green around the gills. The weather was mild and made for a smooth ride out – for most people – and everyone liked lounging around in the spacious cabin. The diving was up to the usual standard although the vis was a little limited – only twenty meters or so!

Come the second dive Matt and myself decided safe diving practices could go out the window and decided to bomb it. We got down to 55m and man, did the sand look cool!! (The AUUC in no shape or form condones diving to such... ah... 'substantial' (for want of an unincriminating word) ... depths – Prez) We spent only a few moments at that depth and spent another forty minutes ascending as slowly as possible. Do not try this at home! Big ups to Jon and his Olds for letting us use his pad!

Fountain Crawl

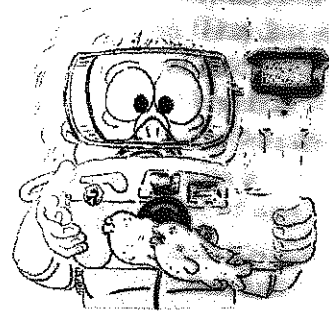
If you didn't do this you missed out. The debauchery started at nine when we popped a bottle of champers in the quad and had the fun nazis on us in a second.

At first the fountain in Albert Park seemed a trifle on the chilly side but at the day wore on – or as the champagne kicked in – it got a lot warmer. We had Pierre and Emma along as official spectators to begin with but Pierre softened out before ten and Emma had a strict “no wetness above the thigh rule”?! Still we had Glen, Hard-man Keith, Rob, John, Matt, Danielle, Nick and myself acting like idiots so it was a good foundation for a day of larrikinism (Yes it's a proper word – at least in Australia). By the time we got half way through the crawl however we were burdened with a semi-comatose Danielle who had to be dragged from fountain to fountain – and have her head held above the water. The only way we could get her to move under her own volition was to lead her around with a champagne bottle!! The day progressed as one would expect – in a bizarre kind of way. The biggest down was that some prick had tipped off Sky City security and the bastards were waiting for us!

By the time we got down to Princes Wharf Emma abandoned her rules of abstinence and also most of her clothes. The truckies having their lunch by the wharf were most impressed! From the wharf it was a long hard slog uphill back to uni with Parnell baths and High St. fountains along the way – by this time I was getting late for work by I arranged to meet the remainder (survivors) of the fountain crawl in shadows at 3pm. Glen, Emma and Keith were the only ones who made it. Apparently Nick had been left in the loving embrace of the downstairs toilet, Danielle asleep and drooling in clubspace, Matt had gone to an exam!! And Rob and John were lost in the streets of Auckland city with their engineering mates. In the end Nick recovered but was left with a permanent impression of a toilet bowl on his forehead. Danielle found her second wind and caught up with the pub-crawl, she has officially earned booze-hag status. Emma was left with a gash on her forehead from an encounter with a jug, numerous bruises from god knows what and a somewhat tarnished reputation. I woke up with a headache but that's all.

Hahei Beach

Hahei is a beautiful spot and quite dear to me personally (Matt's writing this one). This year it turned it on for us superbly. Nine of us made it this year, including Mike, a past club member and veteran of many many dives. He brought his 4WD along and we were able to launch off the beach, which made things a lot easier! When we arrived mid-Saturday morning the bay was still calm, in fact I've never seen it so flat for so long – it lasted all day. Needless to say our first dive each was excellent, it always helps to not be tossed around on the surface while you're gearing up. There is a pinnacle known as **South Sunk Rock** located just beyond the bay's outlying islands. It comes up to about **2 feet** at low tide and goes down to the sand at around 30m. There is all sorts of guts, cracks and big rocks, plenty of fish life and the odd crayfish too. Makes for a very nice dive. **One** problem with the calm water was that it was pretty hard to find, with the sun and clouds reflecting perfectly off the water. The first boat-load scored a good dive there, unfortunately the second load's lack of local knowledge (or eye-sight) meant they weren't able to locate it! They dived the back of Mahurangi Island though, and were rewarded with a find of a small cave, the ceiling of which was lined with **many crayfish**. Glen was able to grab a couple that weren't undersize and tells me that he **had never seen** so many crays in one place. From a guy with his experience that's saying **something!** Saturday night we stayed in the nicer choice of backpackers and had a **good time cooking** the crays and munching on them, while mixing them with the culinary **delight of some** good old kiwi takeaways! The non-kiwis with us weren't too keen on that though so cooked themselves up something slightly less greasy! A few beers were had by all too, until we decided to turn into yuppies briefly, and nipped down to the café for a late! The only other tale from the evening was Hamish's not-all-too-successful spading of a not-from-our-group European beauty. Better luck next time mate! Sundays diving was back out to South Sunk, everyone got there this time. We were also joined by a South African tourist who had asked if he could come with us for a dive and who'd assured us he'd done lots of diving off the coast of Africa. After he disappeared upwards in a hurry from a **to-remain-undisclosed depth** (ahhhh... shite!) and I had returned to the surface (much more slowly!) **to make sure he** was ok, we were able to continue a pretty good dive. Next out was **the two blondies from Europe** (I'm sure they won't mind me calling them that – it's their word!) **who had much** fun playing in 5m off the side of the island! Overall the trip was **successful, a good break** from study and the nine of us who attended had a great time. (The 'toon is a dig at our South African mate, not our own foreign ladies!...)



BLOODY TOURISTS!

Up and Coming

Just to let you guys know what's up. We are planning another weekend up to Ngunguru for the Poor Knights and maybe the Waikato again too. This will be after exams – some time in the term break. If you don't know the charter to Poor Knights is \$55 – this is a very cheap rate which we are able to achieve by sole-chartering the boat. Tank fills are an extra \$6 per fill – ie. If you turn up with a full tank and do two dives it will cost you \$61 total. The Waikato shipwreck we do from the club boat and charge \$4 a dive – again tank fills are an extra six bucks. Maybe this time we will attempt to dive the Tui as well which is a little further round the point. We would have to charge a bit extra for this maybe \$6 a dive!!

Chamber Dive: A 'dive' in a recompression chamber, lots of fun and a good learning experience too. What's it like to be properly narked? Find out on this one. **Coming very soon.**

White Is: This is our most expensive trip at \$250 for the charter. Having said that I've done it four times and it is sooooo worth it! There is room for seven people on the boat so if you want in let us know. We will set a date that suits all concerned but **most likely in the first weeks of semester two.** Get in fast, and the dates will suit you.

Mid-winter Taupo dive: This is only for the hard-asses but it is a good laugh and makes for interesting diving. Day 1 we will do a dive in the lake – which can get pretty deep in places, you will likely see trout, catfish and heaps of koura (freshwater crays). Day 2 is a drift dive down the Waikato river. This takes about 30 min and it's a barrel of monkeys. If you haven't been drift diving before you want to do this trip. An additional bonus is the hot spring that enters the river just before the exit point (about 42°C) to warm you up – you will need it!

Scallop season opens in July so we will be planning a few afternoon trips to the west coast – diving for scallops can be pretty exciting when you can't see your own fins and there is a two knot current (that's fast), and the results are awesome.

Leigh reef/The Outpost: This is usually very good diving and probably the cheapest we can manage. It's just out of Leigh so it makes for an easy day trip. Leigh reef almost always has kingis hanging around, and an awesome network of caves running through it. This trip usually takes place on pretty short notice so if you're keen let us know, it often occurs mid-week or on odd weekends (ie whenever). We can only take about four divers on this one coz the reef must be dived at slack tide when there's no current. The outpost is usually a good "rape and pillage" spot with plenty of crayfish. It's also a good place to see (and play with) out of it shit like octopuses.

That's about all I can think of so the rest is up to you. The next meeting is on Wednesday the 22nd of May, 6:30pm in Clubspace. If you want to go diving, want to go to the pub or just want to laugh at some funny pictures of Matt then come along. I realize a lot of you can't make it to the meetings so keep in touch – e-mail me at
Matt at _____, let us know what you're doin', when, where and why you want to go diving/snorkeling/kill-some-stuff/drinking etc and we will get back to you.

Cheers,
Hud

President's Bit

Well that's the run down of the year so far. Overall this first semester has been a pretty successful one, missing only one weekend due to weather, and all diving that did take place being pretty good. A dive is a dive, and those of you/us that are keen on diving would agree that it's better than being somewhere else working!

As Hayden mentioned at the start of this Flotsam, we're pretty short staffed this year, he and I are the only committee members left, much of what's happened so far has been him and me, with a little help from past president and die-hard AUUC member Glen. It's been a pretty good show so far. Cheers guys.

The highlights for me have been a dive on the Waikato where the vis was good, the fish life excellent and we all had fun posing for photos on the ship's gun; the Knights (first time out there for me!); Hahei last weekend (I just love being there) and of course fountain crawl. If you didn't believe me how much fun it is just ask Rob or John, the two engineers who joined us saying they had to be back for the Engineering Keg Stein but half way through they had changed their minds having much more fun running round the city in a wetsuit jumping in fountains!

Trip turn out hasn't been too bad, but hasn't been too high either. Be good to see more of you getting out there and doing it. In all seriousness, the club is here to serve you guys, to provide us students access to an awesome sport at us-affordable rates. It's happening, but to help us out, we need your input! If you have an idea for a dive trip, or a location that you want to dive, then let us know. We're not mind-readers and like everyone else out there says, feedback is an important part of running such an organization. You don't need to do all the organizing (although a hand would be great!), just let us know and we'll see what we can do. It is what you make of it! All that said, I've had a good time so far (my grades wouldn't agree so much... that's not an excuse!!) and the next semester looks good too....

Good diving, Matt.

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