

The Bottom Times

Newsletter of the Western Underwater Dive Club Incorporated

July 2008



POSSIBILITY

The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them, to the impossible.

Arthur C Clarke: – English writer of science fiction. B.1917

NZ Dive Scene Quiz

The first correct entry drawn at the Club meeting on Wednesday 2nd July wins a Seven Tenth's Diving T Shirt of their choice courtesy of Dive HQ West Auckland.

- 1) When does the movie "Sharkwater" premier in Auckland?
- 2) Which famous person is working on an Orca project with Ingrid Vissor out of Tutukaka during July?
- 3) What is happening in the Bay of Islands on the 26th July?
- 4) What award did club member Mike Percy recently receive?
- 5) Which club member has just been nominated for the Montana Environment Category book award for his book "The Surface of the Sea"?

July 2008

Club Rooms

Activities for July 2008

Club Meeting Wednesday 4th June

Guest Speaker: Alan Strong

Topic: Commercial Diving as a Career

Date	Opening Time	What's Happening
Wednesday 2 nd July	7pm	Club Meeting – Guest Speaker Alan Strong
Thursday 3 rd July	7pm	Manukau Sports Fishing Club
Friday 4 th July	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 9 th July	7pm	AGM Western Underwater Dive Club Inc.
Friday 11 th July	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 16 th July	7pm	Club Night
Thursday 17 th July	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Friday 18 th July	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 23 rd July	7pm	Club Night
Friday 25 th July	7pm	Club Night
Tuesday 29 th July	7pm	Caving Club
Wednesday 30 th July	7pm	Club Night

Guest Speakers Coming up!

Club Meeting Wednesday 6th August – Mediterranean Marine Reserve Tour 2006 – Dr Roger Grace

Club Meeting Wednesday 5th November – Stewart Island – The Russian Connection – Peter Crabb

The Bottom Line – Presidents Page – July 2008

Those of you who did not make it to the Club Night in June missed a ripper! It was a bumper night with several presentations – including the Guest Speaker Simon Mitchell – and importantly a prestigious award to one of our long standing Club Members was made.

Prior to the ‘main event’ we had a presentation from Peter Crabb from New Zealand Underwater. He outlined the role of NZU and all the great work and underwater related promotion and safety work they do throughout the entire New Zealand water community. The WUDC was presented with a certificate in recognition of the support given to NZU recently. On behalf of the WUDC, thanks NZU.

The front cover competition attracted quite a few entries. Perhaps the generous offer of a Seven Tenth’s Diving Tee shirt from Dive HQ West Auckland was the cause. Now to be clear about last month’s winners, Abby was one of the winners and she modelled her winning tee shirt with real style. Thanks. This month George Currie was our lucky winner (See Paul in the Shop George if you don’t already have it). Congratulations and thanks Dive HQ West Auckland. And after months of making the point that he never won anything, in spite of being a regular entrant, Dave Sherry won the \$50 voucher draw. It does pay to enter.

The second presentation was something quite special. Paul Oxtan spoke about the dedication, commitment and achievements of one of our very own. It was humbling listening to Paul and absolutely no surprise to hear who the recipient was. For his countless years of service and dedication to a wide range of worthy marine and conservation causes Dive NZ’s Dave Moran awarded Mike Percy the Wyland Foundation Dive NZ Recognition Award. A darn impressive trophy – you have to see it to appreciate it - and to see Mike’s name on it alongside Wade Doak, Steve Weidmann and Ross Guy and others, was a proud moment indeed for the Club and me. Look around the Club Who is it at the Boat Shows promoting the Club, who is it on all the beach clean-ups, who is it working tirelessly with Councils and conservation groups across a wide area. Mike Percy. I have witnessed his passion and drive first hand – very impressive and well-deserved Mike. Congratulations on behalf of the Western Underwater Dive Club.

And thanks to Deanne and June for, I suspect, spending all day in the kitchen preparing an outstanding array of fine finger food. It was great, and that nothing was left over was testament to its yumminess. Thanks.

It was a bit later than usual when Simon took centre stage, and not before I had the pleasure of awarding him the ‘Kyle memorial Trophy’ for Best Technical Diver of the year (From late last year). Then, once again, Simon wow’ed us with another brilliant presentation. He took us on a journey diving on the lost wreck of the Port Kembla, off the West Coast of the South Island. Some of you in the Club a few weeks ago would have seen the cleaned bell – outstanding. To the AHS Centaur (Not) off the Australian coast, and one other wreck whose name I forget (Sorry Simon). Diving at its extreme to say the least. A thoroughly captivating presentation, and as always the audience really appreciated Simon’s unique relaxed, authoritative and entertaining manner. The Club thanks you Simon, and we look forward to your return.

I was very pleased to hear Paul Oxtan had made it onto a trip recently and been diving – to the Poor Knights of course. The Club Trip earlier in June was a sell out – good to see. I was at the Aldermans myself quite recently and the water is still incredibly warm – 17 to 18 degrees, even at 30m. No Cray but a few good photos. Get out there and get diving – those ‘jobs around home’ will still be there tomorrow but the Cray or that near perfect photo might not be!

By the time you read this, the AGM will be really close – 9th July at 7:30 pm in the Clubrooms. Nominations for Committee and other positions will be note in this magazine, as will the agenda and remits to be considered. There are a few more changes to the Constitution being suggested. Please come along and have your say about your Club. PLEASE attend the AGM.

As you know the Committee is currently working to keep the Western Underwater Dive Club rooms in their current location. There is a real possibility the Club will loose these outstanding rooms, constructed by the members and maintained by your Club for so many years. Yes they may need a refresh and refurbishment but they are ours! If the Club is to stay it will need your support and lots of hard work. What are you able to do to help keep the Clubrooms? If the Club is to survive, your support is essential. It is hoped to put some options to members at the AGM.

On the Friday before the AGM we are holding a social function in the Club. Come along dressed in theme - “Happy days”. Those of you too young to remember – Google it! It’s sure to be a night to remember.

This is my last Bottom Line. I’d like to thank the whole Committee for all the work they have put into keeping your Club running. It can sometimes be a thankless task so If you appreciate what the Committee does, how about telling them sometime. It will make a difference. Special thanks to Anne Shepherd for staying with us, and to Sandra, Dave and Cameron for their commitment and hard work. Keep it up.

See you in the Club or water soon. Safe diving.

Steve Roberts - President WUDC

Snippets

Biggest Cray Competition

New member Gary Wihongi is the only member to weigh in a cray for this season. Gary caught a beauty, a 4.3kg packhorse at Triangle Island, Karekare Peninsula on the 15th December 2007. Gary was aboard the charter vessel Intrepid and the skipper Roy verified the weight. There is also a great photo of the cray covering the length of Gary's Scuba cylinder!

Could take a bit of beating this one!

Most Interesting Artefact Competition

Two entries registered so far this season by Damos Albert who recovered an old parking meter from Lake Pupuke on the 17th April 2008 and from Paul Collinson with an interesting bait runner reel, and rod set found at Bird Island, BOI on the 28th January 2008.

Club Draw

Be in to win the club draw, drawn at the monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month. You do not have to be at the monthly meeting to win the draw. If your name is drawn and you are not present at the time of the draw, you are still a winner! Each time you come down to the clubrooms for a drink and support the club, be sure to register your name at the bar with the person on duty. The more times you are in the clubrooms, then the more chances you receive in the draw! The prize is a \$50 voucher each month to be redeemed at Dive HQ West Auckland. The Western Underwater Dive Club sponsors the voucher.

E-Mail Contact

If you wish to receive your magazine by e-mail, rather than having it posted, please send your e-mail address to paul@divehqwest.co.nz.

Purchase your own Club Glass

Purchasing your own club glass / handle at the bar in the clubrooms at a cost of \$10 per year, enables you to receive a discount on your drinks when using your glass. An example of the discount is a handle of beer becomes \$3.00 instead of the \$4.00 normally charged. We even give you your first drink in the glass complimentary! Ask at the bar for details on either a wine, beer or spirit glass.

Club Pennant for Sale

Support your club and fly a club pennant. Two types available, blue with white (small) \$20.00 each or Blue with Gold (large) \$35.00. Purchase from either the Clubrooms, or from the shop.

Bricks for sale

Another way you can support the club is by purchasing a brick on the clubrooms wall. \$10.00 gives you a brick bearing your name displayed on the wall of the clubrooms. You can purchase your brick from the bar in the clubrooms.

Club Reunion Polo Shirts for Sale:

Some club shirts are still available for purchase following the 30th Reunion. See bar staff in the clubrooms if interested.

Welcome

New Members

Paul Gargiulo Regan Kerr Coral Porter Logan Thomas

Renewing Members

Chris Windross Allan Roche Kathy Rattray Michael Waters
Aidy & Tracey West Kris Dyer Rodney Knight
Steve & Judy Roberts Sandra Bogun Garth McCullough
Cameron Smirk

Congratulations

PADI Open Water

Paul Gargiulo Coral Porter Regan Kerr

PADI Advanced Open Water

John Rule

PADI Rescue

Jeremy Burrows John Rule

Fishy Story. - From a saturation diver somewhere in Singapore / Indonesia.

Fishing, well! Here's a fishy story for you.

Bell at 350 ft, boys locked out and I'm the bellman. Good fish life and a 30lb Jack Fish comes in to the bell and gets a mouth full of helium. I must do something to them as next thing he's back, head in bell gulping the stuff. Swims away and then back again. I say to myself, catch the bugger. I find 4 foot piece of nylon and make a lasso. I put it in position in the water and when he sticks his head in I figure I will put it over and pull back. He swims in several times and then swam head in and turned to swim back out through the loop. Once the loop was over the taper of the body towards the tail, I pulled it tight. One 30lb fish in the bell! I brought it to the surface, locked it out and gave it to the local rigger onboard.

Contributed by George Currie.

Mike Percy Awarded the Wyland Award

The club meeting held on June 4th was especially special for Mike Percy who after 15 years of dedicated work with the Western Underwater Research Team was awarded the prestigious Wyland Award by Dave Moran from Dive New Zealand. The magnificent trophy was established in 2003 with the cooperation of one of the world's most recognised marine artists, Wyland – www.wyland.com.

In Auckland, his work can be viewed at the harbour's Viaduct Basin where he painted a 420m x 20m mural of humpback, blue pilot and killer whales at play. The late Sir Peter Blake invited him to New Zealand.

The criteria for the award is primarily aimed at recognising those individuals or a group of individuals that have unselfishly contributed huge amounts of their personal time for the benefit of all divers and the marine environment for no real personal financial gain or glory. They are the unsung heroes, doing what they feel makes a difference for this planet we call home.

Once again, Mike has put the name of the Western Underwater Dive Club out there in front of the New Zealand Dive Industry. On behalf of all of the club members, sincere congratulations, Mike, you thoroughly deserve to have your name on the trophy alongside such previous notable winners such as Wade Doak and Ross Guy!

- Paul Oxtan.

Poor Knights Trip – Sunday 8th June

Finally I was getting a day to go diving! I coerced Roger into covering the shop duties for the morning and was eagerly anticipating getting to dive Tie Die Arch with Noel and Jo aboard Yukon Charters. The weather leading into the weekend was great with very little wind and slight seas, however by the time Deanne, Willie and I met Anne, Albie and Mike Macaulay in Whangarei on the Saturday evening, there was reports of 1 metre choppy swell from the Sou-West. Tie Dye was out, however we could get out to the eastern side of the Knights which is a rarity, so along with John Scott, Paul Collinson, Dave Sherry and Mike Percy who joined us Sunday Morning we were all eager to get wet!

Noel parked the boat in the sun at Barren Arch and we were not disappointed with the dive. Some did the archway, some the cave and some the wall out to the point. Vis was I reckon about 20 metres - great, and it felt so good to get wet again and successfully master the drysuit and the camera. Second dive was at Matt's Crack, once again with the afternoon sun shining through. My one regret here was that I did not get into Matt's Crack and everyone else who did arrived back at the boat raving about what a wonderful dive it was! We decided to do the cave first and then the crack as all the others had gone off to the crack

first. After coming out of the cave, and navigating along the wall towards the crack, I somehow missed the boulder in front of the entrance and swam past it. Still it was a great dive and a superb day shared with great buddies and washed down with the inevitable debriefing in the game fishing club on our return to Tutukaka.

Thanks to the fellow members who shared the trip, I really enjoyed it! It reminded me of just how good NZ diving can be, especially at this time of the year!

- Paul Oxton.

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The Dead Horse Theory

Dakota Native American tribal wisdom, passed on from generation to generation, says: "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount and get a different horse."

However, in governmental New Zealand, more advanced strategies are often employed. These strategies include:

- 1) Buying a stronger whip.
- 2) Changing riders.
- 3) Appoint a committee to study the horse.
- 4) Arrange a visit to another country to see how other cultures ride dead horses.
- 5) Lowering the standards so that the dead horse can be included.
- 6) Reclassifying the dead horse as 'living impaired'.
- 7) Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
- 8) Harness several dead horses together to increase speed.
- 9) Provide additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
- 10) Do a productive study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
- 11) Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overheads and therefore contributes more to the bottom line of the economy than do other horses.
- 12) Rewrite the expected performance requirements for all horses.

Other suggested strategies:

- 1) Blame the previous rider.
- 2) Demonstrate that over the past ten years, the horse has been alive more than dead, and hence it's current deadness does not represent a long-term trend.
- 3) Rename the horse to give it a new image, eg new horse.
- 4) Promise unspecified compensation in the future, for anyone who loses out because of the horse being dead.
- 5) Adjust all horses arrival timetables, so that if the horse is late, no riders can complain.
- 6) Invest in a new high-tech saddle, which is compliant and makes regular announcements for any blind people.
- 7) Make a public announcement that you are 100% behind the dead horse.
- 8) Sell the dead horse to a third world country as a totally safe transport option.
- 9) Give 50bn of taxpayer's money to the person who sold you the horse in order to support the market for dead horses.
- 10) Set up a new department: Ministry Offhorse!

Contributed by Mike Macaulay.

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Western Underwater Dive Club Inc. will be held on Wednesday 9th July 2008 at the clubrooms, 5 Portage Rd, New Lynn commencing at 8pm.

The order of business shall be as follows:

- Apologies
- Annual Report and Balance Sheet
- Ratification of Life Members
- Election of Officers and Committee
- Appointment of Honorary Solicitor
- Remits and Motions of which notice has been given
- General Business

Nominations are called for the following positions and should be sent or delivered to the Secretary, Western Underwater Dive Club at it's registered office, Unit 3 , 5 Portage rd, New Lynn no later than Wednesday 25th June 2008.

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee (5 Positions minimum)

The consent of the person being nominated must be obtained before nominating them.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the clubrooms.

Any remits regarding alteration to the Constitution or Notices of Motion must have been communicated to the Secretary in writing before 9th May 2008 in accordance with clause 16a) of the club's constitution, which is permanently displayed for viewing by members within the Clubrooms.

The Secretary,
Western Underwater Dive Club Inc.
5 Portage Rd
New Lynn

Western Underwater Dive Club - Presidents Report July 2007 to June 2008

Continuing the theme from last year, it has been another busy year.

There have been some outstanding dive trips during the year. Many of note have been to Northland Dive, including a trip for the sinking of the HMNZS Canterbury in the Bay of Islands last November. I think I must have been the last one in the Club to actually get to dive on the wreck! The Poor Knights remains a favourite and the Aldermans never fails to impress. It was also great to see many 'private' trips organised during the year, including some specifically set up by the Club for the newer divers and less experienced members. Those were well attended and ensured the more experienced Club members mixed with newer divers. You will also have noticed a number of Club divers achieved higher training certification levels during the year. Dive Masters, in particular, seem to proliferate in the Club now. When were you last on a Club dive trip?

July 2008

Presentations to the Club nights have again been outstanding over the year. It really is great to have our own Club members stand up and tell us about their own diving trips. (It would be great if we had a few more articles in the Club magazine each month as well), hint hint.

Last month's Club Night, for me, was a real highlight of the year. Having Simon back is a real pleasure and as always he made a fantastic presentation. That, topped off by the presentation of the Wyland Foundation Dive NZ Recognition Award to Mike Percy made for a night to remember. Paul has prepared an item elsewhere in the magazine and although I repeat myself, I continue to be impressed by Mike's dedication, commitment and achievements across a wide range of marine and conservation activities. Please keep up the great work Mike.

The Club has commissioned a new web site during the year. It is still early days, however if the Club is to better communicate with members and reach out to potential new members, a cyber space presence is essential these days. Thanks to Lee Heath for kicking things off. The web site and address is expected to be publicised shortly. It is a matter of getting content loaded and then keeping it 'fresh'. You can all help with that.

Following a positive AGM in 2007, several new Committee members were welcomed. Unfortunately due to family and other commitments we lost a few. Be assured, the Committee has worked very hard to keep the Club running and to ensure the Club rooms were clean and well stocked for all the events during the past year. Not to mention the social events, and all the dive trips arranged through Dive HQ West Auckland. The close relationship with Dive HQ West Auckland has continued and to a greater or lesser degree, the success of each lies partly with the other. It is important that the Club/Shop relationship continues and is strengthened, and that Club members support both.

It is important that I mention the Manukau Sport Fishing Club. They meet in our Club once a month and anyone who has been down to visit on the first Thursday of the month will know they have a great time. They have supported the Dive Club extremely well over the past, and previous years. Thank you MSFC for your support. It has been our pleasure having you use the Club facilities. And also a thanks to the Caving club, who similarly use the Club rooms each month. It is good to be able to help support other club and groups in the community by providing a venue for meetings and socialising.

I have observed over the past several years that memberships across many Community, Social and sports Clubs seem to be on the decline as the battle for our precious leisure-time increases. It's a reality that Clubs are continuing to wither and close, and it has been another tough year for the Western Underwater Dive Club as well. As I said in my report last year, the Western Underwater Dive Club is only as strong as its membership. Unfortunately the low number of members and visitors in the Club on Wednesdays and Fridays has carried over from last year, and you will see in the financial report that revenue is well down on previous years.

You will see in the published accounts that for the first time in many years the Club has run close to, or at, a cash loss for the financial year. Some of the term deposit has been released into the working account to ensure the Club could pay it's bills over the last 2 months. The Committee discussed, and put in place, a number of initiatives to address the declining membership. Regrettably, it would appear that the Club has suffered some cash losses directly from the cash box or till. Much tighter cash handling processes have had to be put in place, including much more regular balancing, cash counting and banking. This has considerably increased the Treasure's work but it is essential to ensure the 'hard earned' Club cash is not lost.

Unfortunately, there have also been some unauthorised accesses into the Club rooms. This forced a change of locks, at a cost of almost \$300, and a review

of Club access security codes. We are confident only authorised persons now have access to the Club, Bar and Storeroom areas.

During the year the Committee has considered redecorating the Club rooms. As you know it is in desperate need of a make over and some new furniture. Unfortunately we simply have not had the money to make any improvements. After some enquiries it turns out that the lack of audited Club accounts is no longer an impediment to seeking Community grant funding, from the likes of the Portage Licensing Trust. So this could be high on the agenda of the incoming Committee. HOWEVER:

For very sound commercial reasons, Dive HQ West Auckland is not renewing the lease on the unit that houses the Dive Club. Although the Club rooms were constructed in 'air space' above the Shops activities over 15 years ago – with funds raised by the Club and donated labour - the facilities (Not fittings) now belong to the Landlord. Since the Shop will no longer be leasing the Unit, the Club needs to either negotiate a fully commercial lease with the Landlord, or move out. Should we decide we want to stay, and if we can afford the rental and other direct costs, the Club would become the tenant. Discussion have taken place with the Manukau Sport Fishing Club to see if there are opportunities to combine in some way, however their position is unknown at the time of writing this report. While it is heart breaking to contemplate walking away from the Club rooms, that is one of the options to be discussed at the AGM. It is a serious business taking on a commercial lease and not one the Club can take lightly. The backup option also being explored is to see if there are other facilities, very near by, that could accommodate the Western Underwater Dive Club and our activities. Some possibilities have been identified, and while one team looks at how we stay, another is looking at how we might survive a move. Clearly this is a critical issue to be dealt with by the Club, and the incoming Committee. Please come to the AGM and air your views.

Over the past year Dive HQ West Auckland has continued it's amazing support of the Club. Paul remains the Club Magazine 'Editor in Chief', and combined with all the special deals and discounts, the rent assistance and the help with power and water costs, 'The Shop' has been of real benefit to members. At the personal level as well, Paul and Deanne have contributed much to the Club over the past and previous years. I thank you, and I know the Club members greatly appreciate your support. I hope the symbiotic relationship between the Club and Shop only strengthens over the year ahead.

After many years on the Committee, the last two as President, I am standing down. It is time some newer members stepped up, and I am encouraged to see some great members nominated this year. I know they will work as tirelessly as previous Committees have done, to deliver sound management and as many diving and related activities as you want to participate in. Remember, it is YOUR Club.

Thanks to Willy Ritson for stepping into the Club Manager role. I would especially like to thank Sandra Bogun for the countless hours she has put into the Club over the past year. And I know I can be a bit slow sometimes, but it only dawned on me a month or so back that I had never seen Cameron Smirk in the water. Turns out he has not dived for many years and has been planning a refresher since he started as Treasurer last year! And Dave who stepped in as Secretary at short notice. Thanks Cameron and Dave for your hard work and expertise. And to the other Committee members – Anne, Jo, Deanne, Paul, as well as Lee, Daniel and Chris who left us during the year – Thanks.

See you in the water soon.

Steve Roberts - President Western Underwater Dive Club.

July 2008

Nominations for Committee:

Office	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
President	Lee Findlay	Paul Oxton	Roger Crimmins
Vice president	Paul Oxton	Cameron Smirk	Willie Ritson
Vice President	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry	Cameron Smirk
Secretary	Jo McKinnon	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry
Treasurer	Cameron Smirk	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry
Treasurer	Anne Shepherd	Paul Oxton	Deanne Oxton
Committee	Mercedes Bishop	Kit Bishop	Andrew Ferguson
	Andrew Ferguson	Dave Sherry	Sandra Bogun
	Michelle Bishop	Steve Roberts	Sandra Bogun
	John Scott	Dave Sherry	Cameron Smirk
	Aidy West	Dave Sherry	Sandra Bogun
	Deanne Oxton	Lee Findlay	Roger Crimmins
	Anne Shepherd	Paul Oxton	Deanne Oxton
	Mike Percy	Cameron Smirk	Dave Sherry
	Dave Sherry	Sandra Bogun	Steve Roberts
	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry	Cameron Smirk
	Jo McKinnon	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry
	Cameron Smirk	Sandra Bogun	Dave Sherry

Say Cheese

As any serious diver knows, a good fish ID book is an ideal companion to have on a dive trip. Colourful and full of information, these books are popular among photographers who search for the names of the fish they photograph. As resorts and dive boats have plenty of these books around, they should be full of photographic inspiration, right? Wrong.

A common practice for new underwater photographers trying to improve their photography is to imitate the images they see in these books. As ID books are so prevalent, these are the photo styles most often giving inspiration. Unfortunately, by imitating fish ID photos the potential for strong and engaging images is lost. An identification photo of a fish is just that: a picture of a fish! There is no interaction or personality conveyed to the viewer, and the results are predictably boring. Although there is a purpose and place for ID photos, they don't enhance the portfolio of the average photographer. When trying to capture competition-winning photos or for artistic prints to hang on the wall, there is a far better way to photograph fish (and other critters). Follow these steps and take your portrait photos to competition-winning levels!

Hitting the Bull's Eye - One of the first things you might notice about fish ID books is the lack of personality. Compare these to photos found in magazines or coffee table books, and the contrasting styles are striking. Portraits found in these media instantly express a sense of character and interaction with the subject. One of the main reasons for this is the eye contact. In order to create a bond with the viewer, there must be strong contact with the eyes of a subject – be it a fish, nudibranch (head), or crab. The classic sideways shot of a fish doesn't concentrate on the eyes but rather a profile picture of the entire fish for identification sake, and is far from appealing. One alternative is to get as close as possible and frame tight headshots: this plan works wonders and create stunning shots as long as the "bull's eye" approach is avoided. "Bull's eye" describes what happens when the middle of the frame is used to focus on the most critical portion of the composition without considering the negative space. This leads to empty space in the frame with the possibility of distracting backgrounds, and cutting off the subject half way along its body. Make sure you frame the subject all the way to the edge of the photo and utilise the rule of thirds (a framing technique that portions the frame into nine equal parts). If the fish is too large for the frame and needs to be cut off, do so at a natural portion of the body such as the neck. The rule of thirds is especially appropriate when it comes to portrait photos – lining up an eye or a mouth on one of

these “power points” is easy and highly effective. Another consideration when it comes to framing is the use of vertical composition. The narrow lines of the vertical format go hand in hand with the shapes and features of many critters such as nudibranchs and shrimps. It’s especially complimentary for fish photos: the high compressed lines of fish suit the vertical format perfectly, especially when the subject is facing the camera.

Personality Plus – One of the best ways to capture the personality of a subject is through the use of what I call the “30 - degree” rule. To understand the 30-degree rule, simply imagine the fish is staring straight at the camera; now turn the camera up to 30 degrees on either side! Simple - really. By having fish and other subjects face towards the camera it allows their personality to shine through: a gleam in the eye, a slight twitch of the mouth, a glimmer of interaction with the photographer. These are all traits create a photograph with true feeling and character, an image that will stand out from others and retain interest for the viewer. The 30 – degree rule also creates a diagonal leading line in the picture. This helps to create a better sense of depth in the photo and draw the viewer into the heart of the image.

Behaviour is key – One of the most overlooked techniques to create a stunning fish portrait is the inclusion of behaviour. Be forewarned: Capturing behaviour is no easy feat! It takes patience and good buoyancy. However, the reward far outweighs the cons. Capturing the moment a cleaner shrimp enters the mouth of a moray or an anemone fish opening wide to feed on floating detritus leads to fantastic images. This kind of behaviour takes a special photographic mindset. Drifting along the reef and taking three or four photos of a subject and moving on to the next isn’t a particularly good game plan. Instead, having a well laid out goal in advance is the foundation to successful behaviour photography. This may include a reconnaissance dive or two to find likely places to encounter interesting behaviour, It’s also worth researching ahead of time the various behavioural habits of various fish: Do they mate at dusk or dawn, like mandarinfish? Do they lay eggs on rocks or disperse them in the water column, like some frogfish? Do they eat plankton or prey on other fish? Arming yourself with knowledge is a useful tool when capturing fish portraits. Cleaning stations, feeding areas and mating areas are all good places to find fish willing to remain relatively still. Finding the proper subject is only half the battle. The smart photographer must move slowly and carefully in order not to scare away the subjects. Creeping forward a few short paces at a time is the best way to get close to fish. Allowing them time to become accustomed to large bubble blowers is important in order to respect their personal space.

Top behavioural specialists often spend several days waiting for their subjects to display certain characteristics, and may only take one shot! Compared to the photographer who comes flying in with flashguns firing, (sounds familiar), its no surprise which approach results in competition-winning images more often than not.

Next time you hit the water have a solid game plan in place and be prepared. Decide on profile photography in advance and stick to you plan! Move slowly, watch for interesting behaviour and don’t get shutter happy. Following these simple rules will help you get away from identification shots and turn your portrait photography into works of art.

Sharkwater

- A documentary with bite.

Filmmaker Rob Stewart wanted to know why sharks are being hunted to the point of extinction. So six years ago he embarked on a mission to expose the blood and guts of the shark fin industry. He never expected that it would nearly cost him his life.

The movie follows Stewart as he joins forces with radical environmentalist, captain Paul Watson of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. Together, they journey to the shark strongholds of Cocos and Galapagos on board the ship “Sea Shepherd”, to protect sharks at the bequest of the Costa Rican and Ecuadorian governments. Along the way, Rob almost loses a leg to a flesh - eating disease; they are shot at; and they encounter greed, corruption, and some of the most horrific scenes of man’s rape of the oceans that you will ever witness.

As a diver, seeing the rows of fins drying on the rooftops of illegal fishing operations in Costa Rica was enough to make me outraged. As a human, seeing sharks with their fins lopped off, floating to the bottom to drown, simply made me cry.

That is not to say that the movie is all doom and gloom; there are certain moments of levity. Stewart interviews the Chinese owner of a shark fin company, whose ridiculous proclamations had the entire theatre in hysterics. Just as funny is an old US Air Force film clip teaching pilots how to avoid a shark attack – that we ever thought that just by scattering pieces of paper or slapping the water could prevent a shark attack shows how little humans knew about sharks just a few decades ago. (Not to mention today).

Though it's engaging and thought provoking, "Sharkwater" isn't without its flaws. Apart from the comical shark fin trader (pro shark fin) and a young Chinese wedding couple (anti shark fin), Stewart only briefly addresses the significance of shark fin in Asia. Sure the front line is more visually appealing, but he ignores why people in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China continue to consume shark fin so voraciously.

Critics have called "Sharkwater" the "anti – Jaws", but that is a disservice to both movies, which were groundbreaking and provocative for entirely different reasons. The magnificent cinematography and Stewart's poignant message ultimately shines through, and will hopefully create a backlash against the shark fin industry by those who watch. Which in the end is probably all that Stewart could ever hope for.

Visit sharkwater.com for news and theatre openings in NZ.

Sharkwater will feature in the Auckland Film Festival 10th – 27th July.

Dive HQ West Auckland Winter Shop Trading Hours

Monday – Friday	10am – 8pm
Saturday	10am – 5pm
Sunday	10am – 1pm

Upcoming Dive Trips

Get into NZ's great winter diving!

Enjoy the great winter water clarity! Dive trips available every weekend to the Aldermans, Northland / Bay of Islands, Poor Knights or Twin Wrecks. Mid week options available as well!! Ring Shop to book.

July 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Departs</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Sat 5 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sun 6th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sat 12 th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sat 12 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$110
Sun 13 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$85
Sun 13 th	Gt Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 19 th	Leigh Reef	Apollo	Leigh	\$80
Sun 20 th	Mokohinaus	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 26th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sat 26 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$110
Sun 27 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sun 27 th	Hen & Chicks	Apollo	Leigh	\$140

August 2008

Sat 2 nd	Leigh Reef	Apollo	Leigh	\$80
Sun 3 rd	Sail Rock/Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$120
Sat 9 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sun 10th	Pinnacles/Sugar Loaf	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sun 10 th	Gt Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 16 th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sun 17 th	Mokohinaus	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 23 rd	Leigh Reef	Apollo	Leigh	\$80
Sun 24 th	Gt Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 30 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$80
Sun 31st	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125

❖ **Indicates Club Trips.**

NB. Each weekend, most of the charter boats operate on a daily basis. Bookings can be taken for singles or groups. (Minimum numbers apply). You can book any of these trips through Dive HQ West Auckland (09 – 8277008) or paul@divehqwest.co.nz or call in and see us at 5 Portage Rd, New Lynn. The trip is the same price regardless of booking through us or by booking direct.

Call Dive HQ West to book now!

Phone :8277008

July 2008

Diver Training

PADI Open Water Dive Course

Structured Price Schedule - Open water Course priced from as little as \$150.00!!!

Day Class Starts Tuesday 15th July
Weekend Class Starts Friday 18th July
Evening Class starts Monday 28th July
Evening Class starts Tuesday 12th August
Weekend Class Starts Friday 29th August

PADI Advanced Open Water Course

Enjoy a weekend's diving with Northland Dive including a dive on the Wreck of the Canterbury, 2 nights accommodation, meals and air fills and return home a qualified

Padi Advanced Open Water diver.

Weekend of 2nd and 3rd August – Cost \$550.00 (Own Gear) or \$650.00 (with Hire gear)

PADI Divemaster Course

Enrolling now for PADI Divemaster course over evenings and weekends.

Career Courses: Looking for a change in career?

Courses available

- ❖ Entry Level and Leadership Skills in Diving – Rescue Diver or Divemaster.
- ❖ Diploma Level Qualifications – graduate as an Advanced Scuba Dive Instructor with 5 specialty ratings.
- ❖ National Certificate in Retail (Level 3)
- ❖ National Certificate in Adult Education and Training (Level 4).

Enrolling now for start 9th June 2008. Student Loans apply for these courses.

- ❖ Dive HQ West Auckland is an approved delivery site of EMP NZ ltd – The Academy.

July 2008

Committee Contacts and Club Rules

Contacts:

President	Steve Roberts	Business: 916 6411 Private: 6275113 Mobile: 021470347
Vice President	Sandra Bogun	Private: 8132950 Mobile: 0276771986
Secretary	Dave Sherry	Mobile: 021449650
Treasurer	Cameron Smirk	Private: 8179982 Mobile: 021359121
Club Captain	Willie Ritson	Mobile: 0211700124
Committee	Paul Collinson Daniel Hayes Lee Heath Mike Macaulay Jo McKinnon Deanne Oxtan Anne Shepherd Chris Lynch	Mobile: 021885333 Mobile: 021666094 Private: 4165787 Private: 4127574 Private: 8320174 Business: 8277008 Private: 8275477 Mobile: 021773754

General Rules:

1. No club member shall put the Club's name in disrepute.
2. The Committee reserves the right to terminate the membership of any Club Member who does not conform to Club standards.

Club Trip Rules:

1. Dive Masters / Dive Controllers must be obeyed at all times by all persons on a Club Trip.
2. Divers diving on a Club trip must be qualified through a recognised diver-training program.
3. Maximum dive depth allowed on Club Trips is 30 metres unless prior arrangement is made with the Dive Master / Dive Controller. Maximum with Dive Masters / Dive Controllers permission with proper safety equipment is 39 metres.
4. All persons must abide by Fisheries regulations when on Club trips.
5. Payment on Club dive trips:
Day trips to be paid in full at time of booking
Weekend or extended trips require a 25% deposit at the time of booking with the balance to be paid at least 2 days prior to departure.
Refunds will only be made if the trip is cancelled.

House Rules:

1. All persons entering the Clubrooms shall be card-holding members.
2. A current card-holding club member must sign in guests coming into the Clubrooms. The club member then accepts responsibility for the behaviour of their guest(s).
3. Under licensing regulations, the Duty Manager must be obeyed.
4. There is to be no alcohol brought into the Clubrooms.

The committee reserves the rights to amend these rules as necessary.

July 2008

July 2008



West Auckland

THE UNDERWATER EXPERTS

5 Portage Road
New Lynn
Auckland N.Z

Telephone (09) 827 7008
Facsimile (09) 826 1566
Clubrooms (09) 827 7683



Winter Trading Hours

Monday – Friday
Saturday
Sunday

10am – 8pm
10am – 5pm
10am – 1pm



GE Money

