

The Bottom Times

Newsletter of the Western Underwater Dive Club Incorporated

June 2008



COURAGE

Never bend your head. Always hold it high. Look the world straight in the eye.

Helen Keller – Blind and deaf writer and scholar. 1880 – 1968.

Port Kembla Dive Quiz

The first correct entry drawn at the Club meeting on Wednesday 4th June wins a Seven Tenth's Diving T Shirt of their choice courtesy of Dive HQ West Auckland.

- 1) The Port Kembla sank after hitting a mine laid by which German raider?
- 2) What date did the Port Kembla sink?
- 3) What depth does the wreck of the Port Kembla lie in?
- 4) Who found the bell off the Port Kembla?
- 5) Off which cape did the German raider lay the mines?

June 2008

Club Rooms

Activities for June 2008

Club Meeting Wednesday 4th June

Guest Speaker: **Dr Simon Mitchell**

Topic: **Port Kembla Dive & Other Technical Diving Adventures.**

Date	Opening Time	What's Happening
Wednesday 4 th June	7pm	Club Meeting – Guest Speaker Dr Simon Mitchell / Peter Crabb / Dave Moran
Thursday 5 th June	7pm	Manukau Sports Fishing Club
Friday 6 th June	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 11 th June	7pm	Club Night
Thursday 12 th June	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Friday 13 th June	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 18 th June	7pm	Club Night
Friday 20 th June	7pm	Club Night
Tuesday 24 th June	7pm	Caving Club
Wednesday 25 th June	7pm	Club Night
Friday 27 th June	7pm	Club Night

Guest Speakers Coming up!

Club Meeting Wednesday 2nd July – Commercial Diving – Alan Strong

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 – June 2008

As some of you may know, the Club has been challenged for about the last 5 years with retaining membership numbers and maintaining financial viability. A few months ago the financial position of the Club began to decline more rapidly – bankings reduced but costs seemed to only increase. While monitoring cash flows over several months, the Committee discussed ways to improve the finances and we continued to monitor the situation. A range of membership growth initiatives were considered as a means to stall the decline and reverse the losses, and these will continue to be developed and refined over the coming weeks and months. Although the Western Underwater Dive Bar has run very successfully on an informal and casual basis for over 25 years, it can no longer continue to operate this way. Improvements have been made to the Club's cash handling processes and with Willies help, a closer watch is being made of stocking and buying supplies, as well as the weekly cash flows.

In spite of these changes the Club's finances reached 'crisis point' and regrettably, to keep the Club's expense account afloat, a small amount of the Club's reserves (Term deposits) have been diverted to cover recent stock purchases and routine running costs. The Committee is now very focussed on the Club's worsening financial position and ways to halt the losses. Membership fees are to be reviewed (for the first time in many, many years) and the Committee is looking at a range of cost saving measures. As we are very reliant on revenue over the Bar, we are reluctant to put up prices – but it may come to that.

The Committee has also been informed that Dive HQ West Auckland will not be renewing the lease on the unit/building housing the Western Underwater Dive Club rooms. For the Club to remain in the current premises (Premises built by the Club members) then within the next 3 months a formal lease with the Landlord must be negotiated. The Committee is working with Dive HQ the Landlord and other parties to quantify costs and identify options.

The Western Underwater Dive Club has been in existence for over 30 years. We are one of a privileged handful of Clubs to have dedicated Clubrooms and private facilities in the Greater Auckland area. There are serious issues to be dealt with over the next few months, and it is even more important now that you all show your support for YOUR Dive Club. Over the next few months the decisions made will have a profound impact on the Club. I encourage you to voice your views/opinions to me and the other Committee members. Think about how we can get current and past members to use the facilities more; how we might better structure the Club (A Trust maybe?) and what other Community or Sports organisations we might try to align ourselves with to ensure the Club you helped build survives another 30 plus years. Only one thing is clear – if the Club is to survive, your support is essential. Do you want your Club to die?

As I am sure you know the AGM is next month – July 9th to be precise. I know many of you out there have some great ideas about the Club and its running and the Committee is the ideal place to share them. If you are interested in becoming a Committee member from July - and that includes all you current Committee members - please fill in a nomination form and get them to Dave Sherry, or to Paul in the Shop. We do need your help! PLEASE attend the AGM.

On the brighter side, the diving has been great! I was out only a couple of weeks ago and while the water temperature is falling, it is still quite warm for this time of year. There are plenty of trips planned over the next few weeks.

We had another great Club night presentation in May. Anne and Albie Shepherd shared their recent experiences diving in Palau. Some outstanding photos shown and lots of stories told – many thanks Anne for all the hard work putting the presentation together and for your time. Kit's stick was drawn from the many entries and he took away the \$50 voucher. The Front Cover quiz attracted a wide range of answers - there were many variations of the answers and in the final draw Albie and Sandra had their entries pulled out. The prizes this month were not the usual 10 tank refill vouchers but Tee shirts. Congratulations to our winners.

Once again Mike Percy spent 4 days manning the Western Underwater Dive Club stand at the Boat Show. A few Club members gave up some of their time as well to assist on the stand. A big thanks to Mike and those volunteers, the Club received a good deal of positive exposure. Thanks.

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.

See you in the Clubrooms or the water soon.

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

The only entry registered so far this season is by Damos Albert who recovered an old parking meter from Lake Pupuke on the 17th April 2008. Damos used a lift bag and was assisted by fellow CSI students in retrieving the old 1cent coin parking meter!

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

Malvika Parulkar

Derek Yao

Felix Rhodes

Steven Ferguson

Trevor Mander

Gene Merrylees

Guanghui Wu

Thomas Hall

Ruokai Wang

Guiyang Li

Isaac Lovatt

Blake Robertson

Julie Carter

Renewing Members

Iain Anderson

Lawrence Anderson

Congratulations

PADI Open Water

Thomas Hall

Gene Merrylees

Guiyang Li

Malvika Parulkar

Ruokai Wang

Steven Ferguson

Isaac Lovatt

Felix Rhodes

Derek Yao

Guanghui Wu

PADI Junior Open Water

Blake Robertson

PADI Divemaster

Allan Driscoll

Anna Jakubczac

Dennis Bumbesevic

Damos Albert

Scott Cooper

Vote Carefully

A florist goes to the barber for a haircut. After the haircut he asked about the bill and the barber replies, "I cannot accept money from you. I am doing community service this week". The florist was pleased and left the shop. When the barber got to the shop the next morning there is a 'thank you card' and a dozen roses waiting for him at the door.

That morning a policeman comes in for a haircut and when he tries to pay his bill the barber again replies, "I cannot accept money from you as I am doing community service this week." The policeman was happy and left the shop. The next morning there was another 'thank you card' and a dozen donuts waiting at the barber's door.

Later that day a college professor came in for a haircut. Again the barber replies "I cannot accept money from you as I am doing community service this week". The professor left the shop a happy man. The next morning there was another 'thank you note' and a dozen different books including "How to improve your business" and "Becoming more successful".

Then an MP comes in for a haircut and when the barber explained that he could not accept any money as he was doing community service that week, the MP left very happy. The next morning when the barber arrived at work, there were a dozen MPs lined up waiting for a free haircut!

And that my friends, illustrates the fundamental difference between the citizens of our country and our Parliament – Vote carefully!

New Dive HQ Winter Shop Hours.

Monday to Friday 10am – 8pm

Saturday 10am – 5pm

Sunday 10am – 1pm

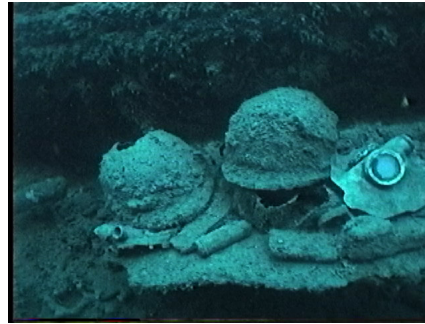
President Coolidge Update

I was able to revisit the President Coolidge this past month with a friend of mine here from Canada. My first trip to the Coolidge took place in 1998, the second in 2003. The chances to produce a DVD along with the big wrecks incredible dives are what keep drawing me back. The folks who have dived it know first hand what I'm talking about! When Phil asked if I would go with him to dive the Coolidge my arm did not take much bending. Having first hand knowledge of his dive experience made it even easier. Coupled with dives we did together on wrecks in the St. Lawrence River Phil had dived the Bianca C in Grenada. But the ship was on fire for days before it sank which destroyed artefacts that are normally found on most wrecks.

Leaving midday on the 23rd of March we stopped over a couple hours in Villa before heading to Santo. We stayed at the airport knowing we had a day to explore Villa on the way back. Those who have flown into Villa know that there is not a lot that the airport has to offer. We did what we could, which were to get acquainted with the local beer.

After checking into the Unity Park we went to the shop and set up our diving. The weather was rainy for most of the first week. It did not help the visibility outside of the wreck but helped to keep the temperature down above the water. As the weather cleared the vis outside the wreck got better each day. One of the last dives was to the stern and the vis had to be thirty meters sixty meters down! Below the surface the temperature is absolutely no problem, a balmy 28C even at the stern! Most other divers were using three mm wetsuits or better. T-shirt and shorts, two kg's of lead for me thanks. The chance of raking myself on the rusty bits inside the ship causes me to move slower, fining less, therefore seeing more and stirring less silt up. It also means I have to have my buoyancy on track. To me this comes with the territory. If you are at 60 meters and 4-5 levels inside the wreck the last thing you want is to be silting things up! That's the extreme. If you are in the forward hold at 30 meters trying to take video or still photos your buoyancy is paramount to giving yourself time to get your shot and not be fidgeting with gear other than your camera. These are the altruistic reasons, but in reality having to wear a wet or dry suit in Canada or here in New Zealand I refuse to wear them in water that warm...

The shop picks us up at 820am. The staging area is much more diver friendly now. It has moved from an old tarp on the ground in 98 to a paved area with benches to kit up on. I enter the water walking out the 100 meters or so anticipating the great dives ahead. Quickly it was very apparent that recent years have not been kind to the Coolidge. Major earthquakes in 2000 and another last year, recorded at 7.2 on the Richter scale has caused some drastic changes. The quake in 00 caused the collapse of the aft section of the first class promenade deck. This is the first area newly arrived divers go to on the wreck. The collapsed section started aft of the main lobby and continued to the engine room hatch area. Originally this promenade area was enclosed with windows that opened on the hull side, with sealed windows overhead so the first class passengers could lounge or walk here in any weather. The troops used this deck to climb down chain link and rope ladders left here after the lifeboats were used. Five thousand soldiers plus crew were not the numbers meant to be leaving the ship in an emergency or otherwise by the builders. It held many helmets and rifles owned by the troops who were told to leave their gear since they were expected to rejoin it shortly. On the same level towards the centre of the ship was the first class smoking room where the statue of the "Lady" and her unicorn was originally positioned which also collapsed. The dive shops got together to remove and bring the statue to the surface, clean and replace it in the first class dining saloon. This location is shallower although two levels deeper into the ship from the original position. Entering Ewart's door it is easier for divers to reach. On the downside the beautiful leaded glass light fixtures and marble fireplace that accompanied the Lady before are now lost to visiting divers.



The earthquake of last year has further collapsed the first class prom deck. From the start of the superstructure to the second lifeboat position is the only section still intact. The once abundant helmets and rifles have now fallen into the ship or to the sea bottom. The quake also claimed the entire roof with its skylights over the main lobby. Included in this collapse is the water fountain, some of the rows of toilets added for the troops and what was left of the smoking room. Now as the diver heads forward on “C” deck from the first class dining saloon into the main lobby staircase, looking to ones left they can see through 3 decks into open water. Where once this position was five decks down into the ship. The upper two decks have completely fallen to the sea floor in this area. This collapse has exposed the boiler room, which I had not gotten into before. This was one of the highlights for me. But folks in protective suits cut this dive short that didn’t use the above-mentioned altruistic practices. The other really big change in the wreck was that the whole superstructure is leaning towards the sea bottom. Windows across the front of the superstructure are no longer square. Moving throughout the ship I noticed other subtle changes. An engine that was on the chase of the five-ton truck is now on the bottom. Where darkness reigned now dim light has gained a foothold. The orange cloud caused by the quake that stopped diving completely hung around inside stopping penetration dives for a week.

In spite of this the wreck will always be an incredible dive site. It has most of its regular dives still intact. My favourite being “the Gauntlet” one enters the seventh hold at ~58 meters and you work your way through the entire ship. One does the deep stop inside the wreck moving down a hallway just a touch deeper then 30 meters. Moving through the forward holds finally popping out the chain locker hatch at 20 meters. The dive is worth the long deco that is imposed on the diver. It gives you the opportunity to go over every inch of the two hundred and four or there about meters of ship you just swam through! Plus it gives you a chance to practice covertly unclipping, loosening all the bands, clips you can get your hands on and shutting off your buddy’s air or clipping all your now unneeded equipment to your buddy’s back so they can carry it back to shore for you.



Happy Diving – Mike Macaulay

June 2008

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The Western Underwater Dive Club will hold its next Annual General Meeting from 8pm on Wednesday 9th July 2008 at the clubrooms, 5 Portage Road, New Lynn.

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution, submissions for changes to the constitution need to be received by the Secretary no later than 9th May 2008.

The secretary will accept nominations for officers and committee no later than 14 days before the AGM.

Any one proposing changes to the constitution or nominations for officers or committee can leave them with the shop or hand them to the secretary or any committee member at a club night.

Tonga the place for possible interactions with humpback whales

There are not too many places in the world where you can jump into the water with a humpback whale. Hawaii's regulations make it all but impossible, leaving just two: the Dominican Republic and Tonga. This magical kingdom allows tourists to snorkel with humpbacks, with of course a few guidelines to prevent stress for the whales.

During the season, boats from accredited whale watching operators make daily trips from just four people to as many as twelve. As with most wild animal interactions, nothing is guaranteed so it's better to give yourself a few days out on the boat. What's a day or two extra when it could mean a face-to-face encounter with one of the biggest marine animals on the planet?

Signature sites

Vava'u Island, Kingdom of Tonga

Since free-swimming whales are difficult to "pin down", there isn't one specific site. The humpback whales are found both within the sheltered islands and also in the open ocean. From my experiences, the whales found among the islands are usually the mother and calf pairs, which tend to remain in longer interactions; while the ones found in the open ocean are mostly groups – sometimes a mother and calf with a male escort, or a group of males pursuing one female in what is called a "heat-run". This can get a bit messy and fast-paced, and the interactions don't usually last long, but are interesting to watch. If you go out on the boats more than once you should have a good mixture of both scenarios.

Most Photogenic – Humpback whales

Pack your bags – Fly to Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga. From there it is a ninety minute flight to Vava'u.

Now's the time – July through early October.

Dive with – Beluga Diving Vava'u (belugadivingvavau.com), Dive Vava'u (divevavau.com), Dolphin Pacific Diving (dolfinpacificdiving.com).

Tips – Don't spike down towards the whales, and bring a wide-angle lens: You cannot imagine how big humpbacks are, and they do come close.

Depth – Surface

Visibility – 25 – 35m **Experience** – All (no C-Card necessary)

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.

June 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Departs</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Sun 1 st	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sun 1 st	Mokohinaus	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Mon 2 nd	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Mon 2 nd	Sail Rock / Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$120
Sat 7 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$85
*Sun 8th	Pinnacles / Sugar Loaf	Yukon	Tutukaka	Full
Thu 12 th	Hen & Chicks	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
*Sat 14th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sun 15 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$110
Sat 21 st	Gt Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sun 22 nd	Twin Wrecks	Dive Tutukaka	Tutukaka	\$130
Sat 28 th & Sun 29 th	Northland Dive Weekend		BOI	\$244
	Includes 4 dives / 2 air fills / Accommodation and Meals.			
Sun 29 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$85

July 2008

Sat 5 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sun 6th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sat 12 th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$125
Sun 13 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$85

More Trips To Be Advised – List not available yet

❖ **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

June 2008

Diver Training

PADI Open Water Dive Course

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

Evening Class starts Tuesday 17th June

Weekend Class starts Friday 20th June

Day Class Starts Tuesday 15th July

Weekend Class Starts Friday 18th July

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 28th & 29th June – Cost \$550.00 (Own Gear) or \$650.00 (with Hire gear)

PADI Divemaster Course

Enrolling now for PADI Divemaster course over evenings and weekends.

Cost \$900.00.

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.

June 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.

June 2008

June 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

