

The Bottom Times

Newsletter of the Western Underwater Dive Club Incorporated

March 2008



Bikini Atoll Dive Quiz ... its so easy to win ...

The first 2 correct entries drawn at the Club Meeting on Wednesday 5th March, each win a free air card worth \$50 courtesy of Dive HQ -West Auckland.

- 1) What is the name of the Geographical area where Bikini Atoll is situated?
- 2) When were the Bikinians first removed from their islands in preparation for Operation Crossroads?
- 3) What was the codename of the hydrogen bomb detonated on the surface of the northwestern reef of Bikini Atoll on March 1st 1954?
- 4) Which famous American comedian made this comment on Operation Crossroads? "As soon as the war ended, we located the one spot on earth that hadn't been touched by the war and blew it to hell."

March 2008

Club Rooms

Activities for March 2008
Club Meeting Wednesday 5th March
Guest Speaker: Graham Booth
Topic: "Bikini Atoll".

Date	Opening Time	What's Happening
Wednesday 5 th March	7pm	Club Meeting – Guest Speaker Graham Booth
Thursday 6 th March	7pm	Manukau Sports Fishing Club
Friday 7 th March	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 12 th March	7pm	Club Night
Thursday 13 th March	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Friday 14 th March	7pm	Club Night
Tuesday 18 th March	7pm	Caving Club
Wednesday 19 th March	7pm	Club Night
Friday 21 st March	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 26 th March	7pm	Club Night
Friday 28 th March	7pm	Club Night

Pssst! Club Meeting Wednesday June 4th 2008 – Dr Simon Mitchell – Port Kembla Dive and other Technical Diving Adventures!

Dreams - Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things that escape those who dream only at night.

Edgar Allan Poe – American short-storywriter, editor, poet and critic. 1809- 1849.

The Bottom Line – Presidents Page – March 2008

It has been a bit of a quiet month really. I hope that's because you have all been in the water diving every weekend. The February Club meeting was, as always, an interesting affair. We heard from Gareth McCulough from Northern Region Surf Lifesaving who outlined how the Association works and gave us an insight into some of their programmes. It was very interesting to hear that while many Clubs and Community groups struggle for members, Surf Lifesaving does not have a problem! Maybe it's all the media attention it gets? A great presentation – thanks.

Unfortunately from the February Club night we have had to increase our Chip and Snack prices. We held these as long as we could, but our costs very quickly exceeded our purchase price recently and so we had to move prices up. On the night, Albie Shepherd won the Club draw – of the Dive HQ \$50 voucher - while Marty Trow and Nigel Kruk picked up the two 10 tank refill cards – Thanks to Dive HQ for these – your support is appreciated.

The 'main' Club weekend away is coming up in late April. See the flyer in the February magazine or this one. I hope to see many of you at Northland Dive. If you have not dived with the Northland Team before, or in the area, I strongly encourage you to come along. It will be a great weekend, and I am sure a dive on the Canterbury will be available. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Another initiative the Club is trying out is a 'once a month' new diver day. The idea is that a shore-based dive be organised for the second or third Sunday each month. Meet on the Friday evening in the Clubrooms to look at the weather forecast and plan the location and meeting time for the dive. Car-pooling is also to be arranged. Come along and dive with the new members. The Club needs their support – make them feel welcome!

There are still many trips available thru the shop over the coming weeks - please look thru the ones in the magazine, and talk to Paul in the shop. On the International front, a trip to Australia to dive the HMAS Brisbane is being talked about – see the flyers on the notice board or talk to Dave Sherry if you are interested. And we are still looking for suggestions for another International Club trip - again, any thoughts to Dave.

Dive HQ and Beuchat organised a Spear fishing demo and try-out in the pool a couple of weeks ago. There looked to be about 15 to 20 people who took advantage of the try-out and the Dive HQ sponsored sausages and nibbles after-match in the Clubrooms was well attended. It was good to see some new members for the first time – maybe the Club can look at setting up a free-diving interest group! The Club web site is still under construction, and the Committee has decided to register a new web domain name – something a bit easier to type in, and something more likely to be 'hit' by search engines - It will be notified shortly. But we still need YOUR content – dive stories, Club and diving photos, history you can share, links to other sites you think would appeal to other members, and so on let me or Dave have them. And like I said last month, this magazine is yours – any contributions are welcome. Please email them to me (sroberts@xnet.co.nz), to Paul, or drop them into the Shop.

And some short notices:

- Mike is still selling the Hectors Dolphin toys. Please contact Mike if you want some.
- Have you seen the advance calendar on the notice board? Sandra has done a great job to produce an outline of events in the coming months. Take a look!
- Have you seen the new Club promotional flyer? Take some copies to work and for your friends – turn them into Divers!
- We still need Club Manager. For the odd jobs that crop up around the Club from time to time.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer diving. See you in the water soon.

Steve Roberts
President WUDC.

Cray fishing Loops, Snares, Lassos and Nooses as at 12 February 2008. **Peter Crabb – NZU Communications manager.**

This is a subject that has cultivated lively debate this summer. As we have moved around the country visiting our member stations and clubs, many folk have raised this issue with us. New Zealand Underwater, as the national underwater stakeholder always attempts to be up on such issues. New Zealand Underwater does have a representative on “The National Rock Lobster Management Group (NRLMG)” and they had this to say about nooses / loops for catching crayfish. For simplicity, we use the word noose to include all such devices namely: lassos, loops, snares and nooses.

The situation from Ministry of Fisheries as it stands is that:

It is not illegal to sell nooses.

It is not illegal to carry nooses on your boat and it is not illegal to take a noose diving.

However it is illegal to use nooses to catch crayfish, but the word is that Ministry of Fisheries officers will not be coming diving to see if you are using them or not when you are down there.

Apparently where nooses are concerned, there are two main products out there and one, which has a tendency to puncture the exoskeleton of the crayfish.

In one legal case we know about, a diver was prosecuted for using a noose, which punctured the exoskeleton of the crayfish, which is illegal. This ruling is designed to prevent the use of spears, hooks and other such puncturing devices.

The regulations are being revised to remove the literal interpretation that says any crayfish-ensnaring device must have an escape hatch and to allow the use of a noose that can safely extract cray from holes and allow the use of a noose that is designed to puncture the exoskeleton.

New Zealand Underwater endorses this move as nooses can remove cray intact and if it is discovered that they are soft, carrying larvae or undersized, they can be returned more easily unharmed. Antennae, legs and fatal wounding can be thus avoided. This is especially so in certain crayfish habitats where nooses are the best way to extract cray where they sit back in crevices and cracks in a manner that leaves them intact for release if necessary.

Spearfishing Open Evening 20th February 2008.

Fifteen or so club members and customers turned up to enjoy a bit of fun in the pool and pick up a few tips on free diving and Spearfishing techniques. They also had the chance to try out the latest fins, guns and free diving wetsuits from Beuchat. Thanks to Anthony and Tristan from Beuchat for giving up their time, providing the grub for the BBQ and donating a spear gun for a prize for the night. Paul did his best to get realistic conditions by having a murky pool, which made spotting the targets a little difficult (sorry guys) but everybody did really well and so far we haven't discovered any holes in the sides of the pool!

Congratulations to Jeremy Burrows the winner of the lucky draw for the spear gun and to Lee Findlay who won a pair of the long Beuchat Sport fins donated by Dive HQ West Auckland. After the event the potential future world champion spearfishermen retired to the clubrooms for a well-earned beer and barbequed sausage sandwich! I did ask Tristan to bring along some kingfish steaks for the BBQ, however all we got were some hard luck stories of the previous weekends Spearfishing attempts and a bag of the Mad Butcher's best! Never mind they were delicious and certainly filled a hole.

Many thanks to Steve Roberts for firing up the BBQ while the team were poolside.

If you missed it, we can run another during the winter months so come into the shop and put your name down if you would like to have a go!

For those who attended, and indeed if other members are interested, Anthony and Tristan can arrange a day's Spearfishing to the outer gulf islands (Mokohinau / Great Barrier etc). Contact Paul at the shop if you would be interested in such a day.

Happy Hunting. – Paul Oxton.

Snippets

Club weekend Trip at Northland Dive April 2008.

Numbers have to be confirmed **THIS MONTH** and so far only two people have paid a deposit to confirm that they are going! See the details on the trips page and either come in and pay your deposit or ring with your credit card details to commit so that the club can confirm the final numbers attending.

Club Members Feature in Last Issue of Dive New Zealand

Four of our club members feature in issue 104 of The New Zealand Dive Magazine. Willie Ritson features in the Dive NZ Magazine's Scuba Challenge winning team (page 82), Lee Findlay won the Advanced Category Seafanz Shades of Colour Photographic Competition (page 76) with a lovely shot featuring his wife Nev and congratulations also to Iain Anderson for his magnificent front cover shot! If any members were likely to feature or to contribute to any further issues it would be great to get the club some publicity by ensuring that they know that you are a member of the Western Underwater Dive Club. Any local divers reading the magazine might not be aware that the club exists and look into finding out about the club and becoming a member.

Thanks Willy!

Many thanks to Willy Ritson (recently staring in the last Dive NZ magazine) for helping me out by starting to clean up the garden around the deck at the back of the club rooms. Years ago many members put in a lot of time to get rid of the weeds, lay weed mat, replant and enhance the area around the decking of the clubrooms. Willie has undertaken to give me a hand to tidy it up again and get rid of the weeds that are now creeping down through the ground cover. Thanks Willy.

Biggest Cray Competition

New member Gary Wihongi is the first 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!

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 you 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 you club and fly a club pennant. Choice of two 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

Gary Wihongi	Brian Goodin	Vahid Sedighi	Andrew McIntyre
Mansel Franks	Farbad Vaziri	Daniel Chalk	Natash Van Graan
Tyrone Van Graan	John Music	Greg Farac-Ciprian	
Masoud Mansouri Garakani			

Renewing Members

Dennis Major	William Ritson	Ron & Lee Sturch
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Congratulations

PADI Open Water

Michael Meisner	Mark Meisner	Cornel Fox	Peter Sears
Toinette Mill	Masoud Mansouri Garakani		

PADI Advanced Open Water

Ross Cragie	Cameron Kennedy	Anna Jakubczak	Peter Sears
Damos Albert	Allan Driscoll	Dennis Bumbesevic	Cornel Fox
Mark Kraayenhof	Scott Cooper		

Shark Finning is alive and well in New Zealand

Recently a Conservation Department officer in Nelson came across around 30 sand sharks that had their fins removed, some were still alive!

Once again greed for the dollar by supplying Asian markets has changed the way New Zealanders treat marine creatures. Twenty years ago shark finning and sea horses were never on the catch list of fishermen in New Zealand or Australia. Think about it – do we really need to continue down this path to make a living?

While New Zealand's conservation Minister, Steve Chadwick, continues wearing sun-tinted sunglasses like his predecessors have over the last 10 years, little will change.

Dave Moran – New Zealand Dive Magazine.

STOP PRESS INFORMATION!


- The Leapfrog Fly/Dive Promotion has now been extended through to the end of March 2008. Spend over \$500 on product and / or training during March and we will give you a complimentary return airfare for use within New Zealand.
- Mares Trilastic 7 5 3 One Piece wetsuit sale. These suits normally retail at \$699 and there are limited numbers available at **\$299.00** for Lady's and **\$350.00** for men's. Be very quick if interested certain sizes are running out fast!!
- Another Wetsuit special just come to hand. A special shipment of tough diamond outer Pinnacle one-piece 7/5mm wetsuits designed for training purposes and durability are going at **\$360.00!** Men's only and again limited quantities and sizes. Be Quick! These suits are **only available up to March 14th!** Come in and try for size and place an order if interested!


March 2008

WESTERN UNDERWATER DIVE CLUB


New Diver / Refresher Trip Sunday 16 March

Location to be confirmed Friday 14 March, club rooms

 Recently qualified?

 Been out of the water for a while?

 Got some new kit to test?

 Just plain broke and can't afford a charter trip?

The dive club is looking to run one new diver / refresher trip per month, set for the **second Sunday of each month**.

It will usually be a shore dive at a location near Auckland to keep the costs down and we can organise car-pooling.

In addition the Club BBQ will be coming on the day and the club will provide some bread and tomato sauce, just bring your own meat for lunch. Your family is welcome to come along and enjoy a day at the beach with you.

Final details will be decided on the **Friday before the dive (i.e. second Friday of the month)** at the club so come along and meet up with a club representative to look at weather, sea and wind conditions for the weekend and we will choose a place to go and organise car pooling. This will also be an opportunity to learn about how to read marine and weather forecasts and plan a dive for yourself.

If you can't make the club on Friday night let your instructor, someone in the shop or a member of the dive club committee know you are interested in coming along or contact Sandra on 027 6771986 and she will make sure you are told of the arrangements for the day.

All divers are welcome, including prospective club members.

Diving the wreck of the Canterbury

In the last issue of the New Zealand Dive Magazine there is an article on diving this wreck and also a letter of concern. Club member's contemplating doing the Canterbury would be well advised to get hold of a copy of this magazine and read these articles. The wreck is in a fantastic well-protected spot but unfortunately its final resting place is in 38 metres instead of the planned 28 metres. The top of the bridge is at 22 metres.

This can create some hazards as they articles point out especially if you are planning to penetrate the wreck.

For further information on diving the wreck visit: WWW.Canterbury.co.nz or consider diving it with local operators who have the expertise and experience to guide the dive.

Dive Trips - If it is wet – Dive It!

March 2008

Catch the last of the summer seasons diving! We can get you diving at the Aldermans, Northland / Bay of Islands, Poor Knights and Twin Wrecks every weekend! Mid week options available as well!! Ring Shop to book.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Departs</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fri 29 th Feb	Gt Barrier (2 days)	Apollo	Leigh	POA
Sat 1 st	Gt Barrier (2 days)	Apollo	Leigh	POA
Sun 2 nd	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$95
Fri 7 th	Sail Rock / Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$105
Sat 8 th	Hen & Chicks	Apollo	Leigh	\$125

*** Wed 12th – Fri 14th - 3 days at the Cowshed diving with Northland Dive**

Base Price - \$395.00. Includes accommodation meals, air and 6 dives. Extra dives can be purchased. Dive the wreck of the Canterbury!

Sat 15 th	Gt Barrier/Arid Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$145
* Sun 16th	Club Beach Dive	See Details this magazine		N/C
Thurs 20 th	Night Dive	Apollo	Leigh	\$75
Sat 22 nd	Mokohinaus	Apollo	Leigh	\$125
Sun 23 rd	Horn Rock/Gt Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$125
Mon 24 th	Sail Rock/Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$105
Sat 29 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$95
Sun 30 th	Mokohinaus (Photo)	Apollo	Leigh	\$125

Club weekend At the Cowshed – Northland Dive. April 19th and 20th.

Two nights dorm style accommodation, 2 x breakfasts, 2 x lunches, 1 x dinner, 2 x air fills and 4 dives cost \$244.00. A great value weekend and extra dives, meals and you can go up one day earlier and leave one day later if you want to make a long weekend of it! Tent sites at a cheaper rate are also available.

The club has booked the entire accommodation for the weekend and can cater for 26 Divers. We need to pay a deposit to hold the accommodation etc and have until late March to confirm numbers going. So don't muck about, book and pay a deposit now to confirm your spot. First in first served. Your deposit is non refundable if you pull out at the last minute unless you arrange another diver to take your place.

There are only TWO club divers booked so far!

❖ Blue 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.

Brisbane Trip

Diver Training

PADI Open Water Dive Course

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

Evening Class Starts Tuesday 4th March

Evening Course Starts Monday 31st March

Weekend Class Starts Friday 11th April

PADI Advanced Open Water Course – Running over 3 days at Northland Dive including accommodation, meals, air fills, boat diving, Padi advanced manuals, tuition and certification. Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th March.
Course Cost: \$595.00.

TDI Nitrox Course

Enriched Air Nitrox Course over 2 nights. Thursday 13th March and Friday 14th March. Course Cost: \$199.00.

PADI Rescue Diver Course

Commences Monday Night 7th April. Course Cost \$350.00

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. Student Loans apply for these courses.

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

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
Committee	Paul Collinson Daniel Hayes Lee Heath Mike Macaulay Jo McKinnon Deanne Oxtan Anne Shepherd	Mobile: 021885333 Mobile: 021666094 Private: 4165787 Private: 4127574 Private: 8320174 Business: 8277008 Private: 8275477

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.

**WESTERN
UNDERWATER
DIVE MAGAZINE**



DIVE HQ
WEST AUCKLAND

5 PORTAGE ROAD Telephone (09) 827 7008
NEW LYNN (09) 827 1614
AUCKLAND N.Z. Facsimile (09) 826 1566
Clubrooms (09) 827 7683

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trips • fishing tackle • bait • salt ice •
licenced clubrooms

SHOP HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY	9:00AM - 8:00PM
SATURDAY	9:00AM - 5:00PM
SUNDAY	9:00AM - 12:00 NOON

free discover scuba every friday night at 6:30pm