

The Bottom Times

Newsletter of the Western Underwater Dive Club Incorporated

May 2008



Palau Dive Quiz

The first correct entry drawn at the Club meeting on Wednesday 7th May wins a Seven Tenth's Diving T Shirt of their choice courtesy of Dive HQ West Auckland.

- 1) Who was the first European to land on Micronesia?
- 2) In Palau traditional narrative, what is the name of the voracious child who ate too much and ended up flying into the void and forming Palau's many islands?
- 3) How many islands are there in the Palau republic?
- 4) What is the name of the fresh water lake famous for snorkelling with the jellies?
- 5) What runs fast off the southwest reef of the historic islands of Peleliu, which offers some of the liveliest diving in the world?

May 2008

Club Rooms

Activities for May 2008

Club Meeting Wednesday 7th May

Guest Speaker: Anne & Albie Shepherd

Topic: Palau Diving

Date	Opening Time	What's Happening
Friday 2 nd May	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 7 th May	7pm	Club Meeting – Guest Speaker Anne & Albie Shepherd
Thursday 8 th May	7pm	Manukau Sports Fishing Club
Friday 9 th May	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 14 th May	7pm	Club Night
Thursday 15 th May	7.30pm	Committee Meeting
Friday 16 th May	7pm	Club Night
Wednesday 21 st May	7pm	Club Night
Friday 23 rd May	7pm	Club Night
Tuesday 27 th May	7pm	Caving Club
Wednesday 28 th May	7pm	Club Night
Friday 30 th May	7pm	Club Night

Guest Speakers Coming up!

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

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

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

May 2008

The Bottom Line – Presidents Page – May 2008

April has come and gone and still no real sign of winter! Club Night in April was yet another outstanding event! Our own WUDC Member, John Scott, gave a really great presentation on his diving in Cenotes on the Yucatán Peninsula. For those of you not present, that's Cave Diving. John gave a great overview of how the caves were thought to have been created and took us along on some of his underwater journeys through some of the cave systems. He even managed to get into one of the private areas and his photos of incredibly fragile formations were just fantastic. This area of the Yucatán is home to the longest known underwater cave system in the world! If you are interested to know more, one of the many web sites I found is at:

http://www.cenotedivingmexico.com/cenotes_yucatan.html Thanks again John. It was great to see some new faces, and members in the Club – come on down – first Wednesday of the month. The April \$50 Dive HQ gift voucher draw was won by Paul Collinson. The front cover quiz draw (from the correct entries) for the two 10 tank refill cards were won by Sandra Moorhead and Mercedes Bishop. Congratulations.

I am really delighted to confirm that Willie Ritson has generously agreed to take up the position of Club Captain. He has already done a great job weeding and tidying the outside gardens, and has started some 'spring cleaning' inside the Club rooms. Thanks Willie. I know I speak for the whole Committee when I say a **big thanks** for taking on the role. We look forward to working with you to keep things running smoothly around the Club.

Over the weekend of the 19th and 20th of April, a bunch of us (18 to be exact) went on the Club Trip to Northland Dive. Saturday dawned bright, calm and sunny, and first off was a dive on the Canterbury. For me it was my first dive on the 'wreck', and one I had been eagerly anticipating since I saw it scuttled in November last year. If you have not yet dived the Canterbury, it is well worth the effort. Lots to see and already the marine life is worth a look. Take your pick between outside only viewing or some simple swim-thru options. Second dive was off Bird Island. A bit of a current had got up at this stage, but a good dive none the less. Sunday was a bit overcast and there were a few showers during the day. Nothing to put off the serious diver, and this time the two boats went different directions – one went off the hunt while some of us returned for another Canterbury dive - another great dive just working our way leisurely from the bow to mid-ships. Last dive was in a sheltered and shallow bay. Why is it that the one time you leave your camera on the boat, you see something really worth photographing? My first glimpse of 'sand eels' passed without a photo to prove it. The water temperature ranged between 19 and 20 degrees on all the dives! And as always the hospitality and meals at the Cow Shed was great. [And thanks for the bacon on Sunday Paul].

The Club is holding a social event on the 4th of July. The theme is "Happy Days" and costumes are strongly encouraged. See the flyer in the mag. Promises to be a bit of fun, and we hope some of our Fishing Club members will also attend this event.

Once again this year Mike Percy has arranged for a stand at the Boat Show. This is being held between the 15th and 18th of May this year, and anyone with some time to spare would be welcome on the stand. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

Another reminder the Club AGM is not too far away – 9th July to be exact. If you want to put any remits for consideration these need to be with the Secretary before the 25th of June, and if you want to make any changes to the Constitution, these need to be with the Secretary by the 9th of May. Also, completed signed nomination forms for President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee need to be received by the Secretary before 25th of July.

And lastly, the NZU AGM is being held in Christchurch on 16th to 18th May. If you would like to attend on behalf of the Club, and can make your own way down and back, let me know.

For anyone wanting to contact me, my email address is sroberts@xnet.co.nz

See you in the water or around the Club soon.

Steve Roberts
President WUDC.

Snippets

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!

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.

Fulfilment - Fulfilment is deciding what you want out of life, and working towards it. Fulfilment is not merely the reaching of a specific destination.
Anonymous.

Welcome

New Members

Thomas Woodbridge
Chris West
Lorna Maskell
Ian Ferguson

Gianna Malizia
Jason Bartlett
Igor Efremov
Megan Machado

Alice Rossen
David Moore
Te Moapi Simich-Pene
Matthew Kingsford

Shaila Studd
Craig Maskell

Renewing Members

Sean Campbell

Chad Renton

George Currie

Congratulations

PADI Open Water

Gianna Malizia
Matthew Kingsford
Lorna Maskell
Igor Efrmov

Alice Rossen
Chris West
Craig Maskell

Megan Machado
Ian Ferguson
Jason Bartlett

Shaila Studd
Te Moapi Simich-Pene
David Moore

PADI Junior Open Water

Thomas Woodbridge

Eleven-year-old Thomas enjoying his second dive after completing his Junior Open Water ticket with Dive HQ West Auckland. Thomas was diving with parents Wendy and David who learnt to dive at the same facility when it was Western Underwater exactly 20 years ago! The dive site was Leigh Reef over Easter weekend and Thomas was having a great time as you can see.



PADI Enriched Air Diver

Anna Jakubczak

Does a hot shower = DCS?

Q. Does taking a hot shower after a dive really give me a greater chance of getting bent?

A. I get cold after any dive, even in tropical waters so I know how wonderful it is to pull your wetsuit off and jump into a warm shower. But is it safe? Does it increase the danger of decompression sickness (DCS)? The answer is that it could.

Studies have shown that warming the skin after a cold dive can cause a skin bend. This may be because the solubility of dissolved nitrogen falls as the temperature of a tissue rises. Hence, warming the skin may precipitate bubble formation and cause a skin bend.

But there is also a theoretical risk – that by warming the skin and increasing the blood supply to the skin it may draw blood away from other areas of the body, which may then lose nitrogen more slowly and make it easier for bubbles to form elsewhere in the body. This may result in more serious joint pains or even neurological symptoms.

The fact that so many divers, especially in cold waters, do take hot showers after a dive without resulting in an epidemic of DCS would indicate that it is not a high risk. However, after deeper dives (greater than 24m) or any decompression dives it is probably best to avoid getting heated up in any way – eg lingering in a hot shower, soaking in a bath or spa or sitting in a sauna. Keep cool and comfortable for the rest of the day.

Taking a quick shower to get the salt off the skin and freshen up is unlikely to alter the skin blood flow to any significant degree and probably poses no risk, but prolonged immersion in hot water will. – Dr John Parker.



SPEARFISHING FREEDIVING TRIP

*Sunday 11th May
Broken Island, Great Barrier*

Photo - Courtesy - Dive HQ, Whitianga.

- One of the New Zealand's Best Fishing Spots!
- Training and technical advice on spearfishing techniques as well as speargun use and rigging.
- Trial our range of Beuchat Wetsuits, Spearguns and Freediving equipment.
- For all abilities; begginer through to veteran Spearo.
- 15% discount across all Beuchat spearguns, wetsuits and accessories in store 10th – 17th May.

Departs Leigh 9am (Meet Goat Island Dive at 8:30)

\$125.00

Maximum of 17 places

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 club rooms, 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.

Got Blue?

Capturing the perfect blue shot is all about technique, composition and a little bit of luck.

Ever thought of how many things can be described by the colour blue? Blue jeans. Feeling blue. Singing the blues. Deep blue sky etc. What about the ocean? If you have ever cruised across a shallow reef you've noticed the endless variety of blues of the tropical seas. It's not just the surface that holds a surfeit of amazing azures – there are hundreds of hues of blue underwater as well. On any given dive we might be surrounded by blue, but how often do we look at the quality of the blue itself in regard to our photography?

Most people take it for granted that water is blue and think nothing more of the subject. Yet it is often what photographers do with blue in their photography that separates a winning image from an average one. In wide - angled photography, capturing the “perfect blue”, should be foremost on your mind when composing and setting up an image. As an experienced photographer once said to me: “I won't be satisfied with my portfolio until I've captured every colour of blue the ocean represents.”

For many years this was my mantra, and it's led me to pay more attention to the quality of the blue in my photographs. My favourite images always feature a strong, deep blue, but when I compare them side-by-side the blue is different in each and every one! Now I too am on a mission to capture every shade of blue imaginable.

So how can you get blue working for you? Although blue is synonymous with wide – angle photography, it can be used effectively with macro as well. By following a few guidelines you too can add blue to your photographs and create stunning works of art.

Meter relentlessly – The key to capturing the best blues possible is understanding and utilising your light meter. Most modern cameras have a light meter built into the sensor that works a charm. To find out exactly how yours works, it is best to review your instruction manual.

Once you've figured out how to read your light meter, it's easy to put it to work. Simply set your f-stop to the desired strobe – to – subject distance and point your camera in the direction of your subject. Turn the shutter speed dial until your light meter reads “-1” and take the photo. Why do we want a negative number? Simple really: cameras are designed to expose correctly on land, not underwater. If you expose to “0” underwater, your background tends to be a very light blue/white that's not the pleasing azure/cobalt colour you are after. To get a richer blue, you need to underexpose by one stop or even more.

One or two quick turns of your command dial can make a world of difference in your background tones to help capture the best blues possible. One thing to remember: It's the shutter speed that controls the amount of ambient light in your photograph – a faster speed lets less light in while a slower speed allows more. In the bright hours of midday (10am – 2pm) you'll need a relatively fast shutter speed and a slower speed at other times.

What happens if your camera does not have a manual mode or way of controlling the shutter speed? No problem. Your camera comes with a handy tool that gives you better blues. It is called “exposure compensation” and is often represented by a +/- icon in the menu. Set your camera on auto and turn the +/- to a setting of “-1” and fire away. You’re in essence telling the camera to underexpose the background and therefore create a deeper blue. If you find your blues are still a little too white, turn the dial to “-2” and try again.

Shoot up – Although it sounds obvious, you’d be surprised by how your photos improve just by getting underneath your subjects and shooting up. Not only does this technique give depth to a photo, but also framing your main subject against open water helps you achieve a stunning blue background that pops the bright colours of the reef. Looking for a deeper blue? Point the camera at a shallow angle towards the horizon. Want a lighter blue? Point your camera at a steeper angle towards the surface.

Different times, different blues – As the sun follows its arc across the sky the angle of reflection and light absorption in water changes throughout the day. This may sound like elementary physics but it is important because the sun has a direct effect upon the quality of blue in your photographs.

If you are after rich, dark blues it’s best to shoot wide-angle photographs early in the morning or late in the afternoon when the surface reflects a lot of sunlight. However, if you are after lighter blues with a lot of penetration, then shooting during midday is ideal.

Keep these ideas in mind when planning what subjects to shoot on your next dive. If you want to shoot wide-angle reef scenes with a lot of natural light illumination, or filter photography, then it is best to shoot at midday. If you are after silhouette shots with rich dark blues, then shoot at other hours for the best results.

The second reason time of day is important is the inclusion of the sun itself in a photograph. Many of the most interesting wide-angle photographs include the sun as a compositional element. Knowing how and when to include the sun in a photo has a major effect on the quality of the background blue. The best times to include the sun in the frame are early in the morning and late in the afternoon when the sun is low on the horizon, because the risk of blowing out the background is less. Trying to include the sun in a photo taken at midday can prove to be quite frustrating as you need to shoot almost straight up to get the sun in the frame; it is overwhelmingly strong at this time of day, which leads to overexposure.

If you decide to include the sun in your photos it’s best to experiment with different angles. With the sun at the edge of the photo the blues will be light, running to green and white. By keeping the sun just out of the composition you will achieve a richer, darker blue with light streaks running through the photo.

Blue water macro – Blue water backgrounds aren’t the sole property of wide-angle photographs; they can be a wonderful accompaniment to macro photography as well. Blue water macros photos are a little different from the norm and take time and practice to get right.

The first step is finding a suitable subject in the right location. Obviously a fish or critter nestled tightly to the reef won’t work as well because there is no blue to highlight. By looking carefully around the reef it’s easy to find many small subjects that can be isolated against a clear background: anthias, butterfly fish, cardinal fish, gobies on wire coral. The key to capturing these fish is to move slowly and be patient; shoot up at them while they are swimming in the uncluttered water column.

In order to get a nice azure background to these photos, shutter speed and time of day are important considerations. The best time of day to take this kind of photo is during times of strong sun penetration. This enables you to use a shutter speed of 1/100 or faster to capture the blue while retaining sharp focus. Taking these photos in the morning and late afternoon can lead to blurred subjects due to the slower shutter speed needed to attain the right background in weak light conditions. The narrow field of view of a macro lens, coupled with trying to capture a fast moving fish at 1/30 of a second or slower, is a recipe for frustration.

Feeling the blues yet? Get out to your local dive site and put these practices to work. You may find you are embarking on your own journey to capture every blue imaginable!

- Mike Veitch.

Dive Trips – Get into NZ’s great winter diving!

May 2008

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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Departs</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fri 2 nd	Sail Rock / Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$120
Sat 3 rd	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$105
Sun 4 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Fri 9 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$110
Sat 10 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
*Sun 11th	Gt Barrier – Freediving / Spearfishing		Leigh	\$125
Sun 11 th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$105
Fri 16 th	Sail Rock / Hen Is	Apollo	Leigh	\$120
Sat 17 th	Mokohinaus	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sun 18 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Sat 24 th	Wreck Canterbury	Northland Dive	BOI	\$80
*Sun 25th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Fri 30 th	Little Barrier	Apollo	Leigh	\$110
Sat 31 st	Hen & Chicks	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
Sat 31 st	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110

June 2008

Sun 1 st	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$105
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	\$80
Sun 8 th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110
Thu 12 th	Hen & Chicks	Apollo	Leigh	\$140
*Sat 14th	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$105
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	Aldermans	Tairua Dive	Tairua	\$105
*Sun 29th	Poor Knights	Yukon	Tutukaka	\$110

❖ 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.

Diver Training

Open Water Course – Winter Special 2 for the price of 1!

PADI Open Water Dive Course

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

Weekend Class starts Friday 9th May

Evening Class starts Monday 19th May

Weekend Class starts Friday 20th June

Evening Class starts Tuesday 17th June

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 7th & 8th June – Cost \$550.00 (Own Gear) or \$650.00 (with Hire gear)

EMP Medic First Aid Course

Commences Wednesday Night 7th May.

Course Cost \$150.00

PADI Rescue Diver Course

Starts Wednesday night 21st May. Weekend of 31st May and 1st June.

Cost \$350.00

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.

May 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.

May 2008

**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

THE UNDERWATER EXPERTS

HEATED INDOOR POOL - ALL FACILITIES ON SITE

Suppliers of

MARES / DACOR

Quality Dive Equipment

Visa • Mastercard • Amex • Diners • Farmers Card • No Deposit easy finance options

equipment servicing • hydrostatic testing
• equipment hire • air & nitrox fills • dive
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