



Celebrate at the AGM on 25 August

I know AGM's and fun don't normally go hand in hand, but the club has a history of doing just that! The AGM will be a celebration of our achievements over the last year with lots of fun for all. As required, we will have the president report (I will keep it short and sweet), the accounts, vote on the new committee, and then awards. We will follow with some fun activity to be confirmed (I hear rumours of ropes or lasers or karting). We'd like to make it during the afternoon, preceded by a dive and followed by drinks and dinner for those interested, and billeting those out of town.

The committee has achieved a lot this year and is looking for more help. It can be as much or as little as you like, and only what you like to do. If you're keen to organise some dives, or training, or social outings, or newsletter, or anything else, we want to hear from you. We also take it as an excuse to catch up for dinner regularly and have been sampling various restaurants around town. You don't need to be based in Wellington either, lots is done by proxy and after club dives. If you are keen to be a committee member but can't make it to the

AGM, please email us by 18 August.

The **competitions and prizes** are as follows.

- most improved diver - **prize Kapiti trip**
- best Wellington underwater photography – **free membership** to the club
- best underwater photography - **free photo print voucher**
- best topside photography - **free photo print voucher**

Photos need to have been taken since **August 2011**, three entries per person per category allowed. **All entries need to be emailed by 18 August.** You can nominate yourself or anyone in the club for most improved diver.

There will also be raffle prizes (wonderful and less wonderful) on the day.

Pencil in **25 August** in your diaries and get in touch about committee, competitions, and any preferences for activity or time of the day. All the official information will follow shortly.

Contact Us: WellingtonUnderwater@gmail.com

Club Gear

As most of you know by now, the committee has been investigating the possibility of buying dive gear for access by the financial club members.

The gear we are considering is twin tanks, back plates and wings with single tank adaptor and regs. You do not need technical training to use this gear.

There has been feedback, both positive and negative. So we have compiled a more detailed document of what is proposed and why we feel it is a good idea to buy gear. In that document, we ask you to email us your vote: do you support the club buying this gear if all due diligence it taken.

Make sure you read the document before voting. If you have further questions or wish to discuss with the committee, please come for a beer or three to the next club meeting this **Tuesday 31 July at 6.30pm at the Thistle inn.**

Scallop Dive – 22 July 12 by Geoff

A few club divers ventured out to search for some scallops in Kau Bay on the 22nd of July, sneaking in ahead of the arriving south-easterly and rain.

Almost a week of sunny weather and light winds no doubt contributed towards the best visibility I've ever seen in Kau Bay. Scallops were a bit sparse. We did manage to

find a dozen or so each before heading off to the Chocolate Fish Cafe for warm-up drinks and food.

One of the scallop shells turned out to be home to a rather annoyed pygmy octopus guarding its eggs.

Shell and inhabitant were carefully returned to the water.



Figure 1: Pygmy Octopus with eggs

See the attached PDF for an update on the Power Generating 'bouncy castle' from Moa Point!

Mid-winter Stealth Mission (aka - Night Snorkel with Adventure Wellington in Island Bay) Thu 21st June by Nicole

I slowly turned my vehicle off the main road and head into the darkness of the car park. From the opposite side headlights are flashing. I look around and nobody is following me - suddenly I have the feeling that this evening will turn into a great adventure...



Geared up with glow-sticks, torches, camera and reusable heat packs under the suit Ronel and I entered

the water. I popped my head underwater and found myself looking at a bright yellow nudibranch in less than 1 m of water.

So much more was going on just there, fast moving chitons, limpets and paua and feeding barnacles. Some spotties were sleeping in cracks and while I was looking at the wandering sea anemones the pauas in the seaweed were

waving back and forth – then my eyes caught a quick movement along a rock face that suddenly stopped. It was the first fish of that species that I have seen, so I tried to get a reasonable picture for reference later and it turned out to be an orange clingfish.

Ronel found a cray and while we were heading around the point behind the bait house we came across a big shrimp.



Is this a Lemon Nudibranch?

A closer look at the pictures revealed a little sea spider just on its side. A few red rock and hermit crabs

later we saw shadows in front the light beam and soon after pipefishes started to bump into our torches. It was a clear day in looking up into the stars we had the feeling the ocean could take us into a universe of adventures.

Sirens Reef (across from the Bach Café), 14 July - by Nicole

Winter can bring on some really good dive conditions. We timed it right on our Saturday morning shore dive at Mermaid's kitchen and missed out on the worst of the rain coming through later in the afternoon. Calm weather for a few days and the vis was stunning with 10+ meters.



The three of us were on photo mission and curious blue cods were checking us out as soon as we hit the rocky patches.



The swim throughs and channels offered great opportunities for wide angle as well as macro shots.



Club Hike (aka no dive) 1 July by Alan

Well as you can see there was not much diving done on this club trip! This was due to the big storm that came through earlier in the week and muddied the harbour so bad that there was no visibility and the south and west coasts were also dirty and rough.

The alternative was a pleasant walk along the South Coast to Red Rocks. The devastation wrought by the storm evident by the amount of road that had been washed out.

The snow on the Kaikoura's glistened in the morning sun and reminded us of how diverse and beautiful our landscape is.



Nicole and Alan were joined by Phil and Klare and Klare's 2 children, Ollie and Hayleigh. Klare was also very kind and offered us pancakes upon arrival at her place as well as a nice hot coffee before the walk.

Alan introduced the kids to the international treasure hunting game called Geocaching <http://www.geocaching.com/> with the use of a GPS device and some web research earlier they were soon off, scrambling up the hills to look for hidden caches and treasures! Klare had a tug of war with the kids; I am still unsure who actually won that fight!

We still managed to find some time to play "I Spy" and to look in the rock pools. It was good

to see the storm hadn't washed away all of the sea life.



We did find the remains of a seal which had been dead for some time. To be fair, I think it stunk less than the live ones!!!

As we walked back to the car we picked up some rubbish and then headed off to the Bach Café for a well-deserved coffee and muffin!

The Sun shone and the air was not too cold so all in all, another successful club dive, just no diving!!!



The Wellington Underwater Club associate group [Maritime Archaeological Association Inc \[MAANZ\]](#) has a few projects happening in various stages of development.

The longest running is the Conservation Lab on the floating crane [Hikitia](#).



Hikitia (Image Courtesy of MAANZ website)

The Lab was started in 1997 mainly to conserve the many

artefacts that had been brought back to Wellington by Bill Day from the mystery "Half Crown" wreck in the Auckland Islands.

An empty starboard void space on Hikitia was cleaned out, a deck and deck head ceiling built, a fume cupboard and various donated equipment installed, a Lotteries grant rounded things off and first electrolysis happened in 1999. A later grant from Pub Charity raised the standard of equipment. The Lab is the only metals conservation Lab in New Zealand. It also does any other materials.

The Auckland Islands items are now complete allowing the launch on 29 May 2012 of the latest MAANZ report "The Riddle of the Rifleman". The Lab is open most Saturdays from 11-30 to 3-00pm and is manned by volunteers including the MAANZ Conservator Jack Fry. Wellington Underwater Club visitors are welcome.

In the Good Ol' Days by Geoff Henry

I see that the Club's looking for a twin rig.

I've still got a Seibe Gorman manifold and harness for twin 70's.

It's about 50 years old. However, it's near new.

I purchased them off a fellow WUC member (Bob) who had used the rig about once.

Then I found out why!

I first used it off the boulder bank at Kapiti in the days before buoyancy compensators.



Old twin tanks (not Geoff's)

When I got to the bottom there was no way to compensate for the weight of the heavy steel tanks, so I climbed up the bank on hands and knees, crawled to the boat, took off the rig, tied it to my spearline (spearfishing on scuba? Naughty!) and did a free ascent and then hauled it up behind me.

It's never been used since, so it might be 50 years old, but it really is "near new"!

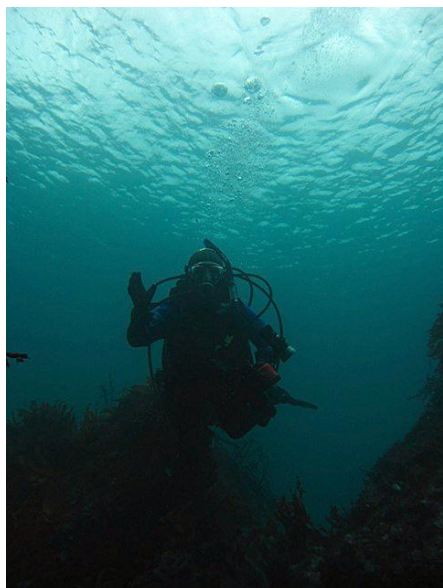
Upcoming Activities

Upcoming club meetings

- Tuesday, July 31, 18:30, Club meeting
- Saturday, August 25, 18:30, **Club AGM**
- Tuesday, August 28, 18:30, Club meeting

Upcoming club shore dives around Wellington

- Sat/Sun August 4-5, Club shore dive
- Sat/Sun August 18-19, Club shore dive
- ... and any other weekend club members want to go out, just let us know a few days ahead.



Upcoming club trips and activities

- 2-4 August (Thu-Sat) Poor Knights photographic live-aboard
- 16 September (Sun) South Coast Clean up at Breaker Bay (Keep NZ Beautiful, Year of the Coast)
- 27-30 September (Thu-Sun) Dive the Lermontov

September

- Some of our club members are planning to go ice diving this winter. Let us know if you are interested and we can email more information.

October

- Sunday, October 11, 11:00-13:00 Pool Training 5m pool Kilbirnie
- Want to know more about the crane ship behind Te Papa. Check out the conservation lab of the Maritime Archaeological Association (MAANZ) with us after one of our club shore dives.



November

- Dive the Riwaka resurgence and D'Urville Island, tbc
- Sneak preview: 24-25 Nov - 24h dive with Dive and Ski

Dive trips in 2013

- February or March 2013, Fiordland trip, tbc
- July 2013, Vanuatu trip, tbc
- There will also be pool training and night dives, as well as potentially camping and diving trips depending on interest and organizers. As usual, [email us](#) if you are interested in any of these trips.

Training Success

We love to celebrate success and two of our members recently completed their rescue diver course with Dive and Ski HQ in Petone. Third from the left in the blue drysuit is Phil and next to him on the right is Nick.



Well done guys!!!

Join Dive & Ski HQ for a **Great White Shark** Talk by Malcolm Francis
Mon, 6th August, 7 pm at the Working Men's Club.
Email Tomo if you are keen to attend.

We are thinking about some Ice Diving? Keen? Let us know!!!