



## ***Greetings***

The year is well on its way, the scallop season has ended and Autumn is theoretically here, not that you'd realise with the late summer we've been having. With this nice weather, I hope you have had some good diving.

An item I'd like to draw to your attention – WUC is hosting the NZ Underwater Association AGM will be held in Wellington on the weekend 29-30 June. Your Committee has been beavering away on the preparation, ably lead by Klare. There will be lots of interesting activities. Apart from the AGM and dinner, there will be talks by marine experts, a photo competition as well as diving. Please note it in your diaries, as it would be good to have strong local participation. More information and registration details are in the attachment sent with this newsletter.

Note the invitation which is in every Newsletter –

- If club members want a dive on a weekday or weekend, just let us know a few days ahead so we can spread the word and find you some dive buddies.
- You can also join us on one of our club meetings and if you have friends interested in diving just bring them along.
- If you are interested in a local boat dive or a dive at Kapiti or some more training - let us know!

The contact details are at the top of the page

## ***Next Club Meetings***

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***The last Tuesday of the month,  
6:30pm, Thistle Inn***

***26 March & 30 April***

## ***Club Newsletter and Updates***

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We aim to produce a Newsletter every two months, and distribute it on the weekend before the Club meeting. The other month we will send a short update on upcoming and new club activities. We are always keen to hear what diving adventures you've had.



## Upcoming Activities

### Upcoming club meetings

#### Thistle Inn, 6.30 pm

- 26 Mar – Tuesday, as usual
- 30 Apr – Tuesday, as usual

### Diving - March

- 23-24 Mar (Sat, Sun), Mystery Weekend with Western Underwater Club  
Looking forward to it? This will be interesting!
- 29 Mar - 01 Apr, Easter Weekend



### Dive trips – register your interest

- 24-27<sup>th</sup> September 2013, **Cave dive trip to Poor Knights**: cave diving for those trained, and training for those interested, or standard diving in different sites from usual, 6 spots only.
- Celebrate a real Kiwi summer and join us for **Xmas/New Years diving at Northland Dive**. Bring your family and explore the Bay of Island above and below water.
- 6-12th April 2014, **Fiordland 7 day liveaboard**: dates are set and details will be out soon.



### Diving - April

- 6-7 Apr (Sat, Sun), Club dive, details tbc
- 20 Apr (Sat) Kilbirnie Pool (4-6 pm)

... and any other weekday or weekend club members want to go out. Just let us know a few days ahead so we can spread the word and find you some dive buddies. You can also join us on one of our club meetings and if you have friends interested in diving just bring them along.

Interested in a local boat dive or another dive at Kapiti or some more training? Let us know!





**TecFest 2013** Lake Taupo, May 10/11/12th

Join us for a weekend of in-water demonstrations & presentations by some of Australasia's most experienced technical diving instructors & divers

- Sidemount Try Dives
- Advanced Wreck
- Presentations on Closed Circuit Rebreathers
- Shearwater Computer Decompression Technology

You don't have to be a technical diver to join in the fun - come along and see how easy it is to maximize your enjoyment in diving

TecFest is supported by:

- Scuba Scene
- Dive HQ Petone
- Underwater Obsession
- NZ Sea Adventures
- TDI International

Guest Speakers:

- Chris Clark
- Brent McFadden
- Paul Trainor

For information and bookings contact **GoDive Marlborough** [www.godive.co.nz](http://www.godive.co.nz) or any of the listed TecFest supporters

Based in Taupo (Motutere Bay), this weekend will bring together Tech Instructors and keen technical divers from around NZ, to share ideas, enjoy a few dives, build links and hopefully inspire some adventures around the country.

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May

- 1.00 p.m. TecFest welcome & presentation on Rec Tec diving in the Pacific region
- 2.30 p.m. Side-mount presentation & try-dive
- 2.30 p.m. Intro to Rec Tec presentation & try-dive
- 2.30 p.m. Fun dive for those not attending any try-dives
- 5.30 p.m. BYO barbecue at the Kitchen
- 7.00 p.m. Gas Blending presentation
- 7.30 p.m. CCR/SCR Rebreather presentation\*

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 a.m. Planning workshop for future Rec Tec dives
- 10.00 a.m. Briefing: (Park kitchen)
- 10.30 a.m. Side-mount presentation & try-dive
- 10.30 a.m. Intro to Rec Tec presentation & try-dive
- 10.30 a.m. Fun dive for those not attending any try-dives
- 12.30 p.m. Lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Fun dive and catch-up try-dives.
- 4.30 p.m. Advanced Wreck Diving presentation
- 6.00 p.m. BYO Barbecue at the park kitchen
- 7.30 p.m. Shearwater Decompression Technology\*

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

- 10 a.m. Waikato river drift dive
- 12 p.m. TecFest windup

Participants need to register prior to the event, including any of the try-dives. See contact details above. Everyone needs to supply their own equipment and air-fills - other than specialized kit needed for the try-dives. Accommodation is up to individuals or shops to organise, quote TecFest if booking accommodation at Motutere Holiday Park. Meals are BYO. Presentations and try-dive times are a guide and may alter as weather and participant demand dictates. Participants can attend any day or all three.

Contact WUC member and presenter \*Paul Trainor ([paul@technicaldiving.co.nz](mailto:paul@technicaldiving.co.nz)), the local Tech Fest supporter Dive and Ski HQ, or Brent from GoDive for more details on the program.

Wellington divers are planning to drive up on Thursday and dive the Waikato River on Friday morning instead of Sunday. Interested in carpooling or shared accommodation. Email [wellington.underwater@gmail.com](mailto:wellington.underwater@gmail.com) and we can get you in touch.

### Venue – Motutere Bay Holiday Park

<http://www.motuterebay.co.nz/>



## Activities that may interest you

### Challenge Rotorua's MUD

***NEW- Sign up now***

This team event is for all the divers who want to get fit and want get to know GUE and fellow GUE divers from around the country.

We'll have a GUE team participating in the Tough Guy and Gal Challenge in Rotorua on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. It'll be up to you to either join the social team on a 6 km loop or to challenge the mud on the competitive 6/12 km obstacle course.

If you want to come along to morally support the team and join the after run party you're welcome too.



Registration: Opens **1<sup>st</sup> April**

Event Details: **3<sup>rd</sup> August** in Rotorua

For more details and to register your interest email [Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com](mailto:Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com) or check out the link below.

[http://www.eventpromotions.co.nz/Mud\\_Run/Tough Guy and Gal Challenge](http://www.eventpromotions.co.nz/Mud_Run/Tough_Guy_and_Gal_Challenge)



Get ready for your next adventure – above and below water!



## More activities that may interest you

### Regional Plan Discussion – Stormwater and bed of lakes and rivers

#### Invitation

Helen and Hayley of the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GRWC) invite you to join them for a workshop to discuss the ongoing development of the Regional Plan provisions relating to stormwater.

In particular, the discussion will be on an approach for managing stormwater discharges from large networks. This will be followed by a discussion on potential provisions for activities in rivers and streams that may be undertaken as part of a managing stormwater system.

**When:** Monday, 25 March 2013 12:30-3:30 p.m

**Where:** James Coe 1 Rm, The Dowse,  
45 Laings Road, Lower Hutt

The draft provisions which outline these approaches will be circulated to you in the week before the meeting - please ensure you read these in order to make the most of the meeting.

Please **RSVP** to let us know if you will be attending (Hayley.Vujcich@gw.govt.nz)



### Blue Water Photo Store Trip Philippines 2014

Keen to join an underwater photography workshop from Blue Water Photo Store in the Philippines in April/May 2014? One of our club members is looking for other divers who want to come along.

<http://www.bluewaterphotostore.com/anilao-trip>

This year's prices were USD\$1875 for 10 days and about 36 dives and \$1425 for 7 days and about 24 dives. This includes everything except your airfare to Manila. For planning purposes both trip dates for 2013 were sold out by early January of this year.

Is anyone interested in seeing the thresher sharks at Malapascua or the whale sharks in Donsol as an add-on afterwards?

Expressions of interest to:

[Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com](mailto:Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com)

## And even more activities that may interest you

### Maritime Archaeological Society of New Zealand (MAANZ)

**New Zealand** has a rich and varied Maritime Heritage. As divers we know that shipwrecks provide us with a fascinating glimpse of the past. The main objective of MAANZ is to be a voice for Maritime Heritage within New Zealand.

WUC is a group member of MAANZ and a number of Club members have individual membership.

MAANZ usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Museum of Wellington City & Sea. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> April

WUC passes on the MAANZ monthly newsletters – if you are interested in finding out more, MAANZ contact details are in their newsletter. Alternatively use the WUC contact address.

### Navy League Day

#### A DAY OF NEW ZEALAND NAVAL HISTORY

The Wellington Branch of the Navy League of New Zealand and the Maritime Friends of Wellington are holding a one day conference to celebrate the first visit of the battlecruiser *HMS NEW ZEALAND* to Wellington on 12 April 1913.

*HMS NEW ZEALAND* was built in 1911 and paid for by the New Zealand government. She participated in all major high sea battles during World War 1.

The conference has a range of presentations, from the New Zealand Wars to the post World War 1 period, including the role of *HMS NEW ZEALAND*.

**Conference Location:** HMNZS OLPHERT,  
Cnr Taranaki & Buckle Streets, Wellington

**Saturday, 13 April 2013: 9.00am – 4pm**

**Cost:** \$45

**Registration:** Ask for registration form from WUC

### Experiencing Marine Reserves

This is the group that enthusing school children to develop their knowledge of the marine world. The group works with students from Hampton Hill Primary School and need four or five volunteers each session to help out. The remaining sessions are:

- 8th April: Island Bay 9.30 - 12.30
- 9th April Island Bay: 9.30 - 2.30

Contact WUC if you can help.





## The Underwater Garden – An Ecology Project at the Waterfront

Blue Wellington's March meeting saw members of the Wellington City Council come along to talk about the Councils' new programme 'Our Living City' and to discuss the idea of a Blue Belt - being a marine park or marine conservation area in Wellington Harbour. There are already projects running around the harbour, the sea and Wellington's Green Belt which contribute to our living quality and Wellington's attractiveness.

There is a number of supporting projects within the city with a vision of influencing policies in the long term. The WCC 'Our Living City' project team is keen to hear about these projects, get more information and ideas to help make them more visible to Wellingtonians and domestic and international visitors alike.

Many ideas came up during the Blue Wellington meeting on how to better showcase our marine environment and foster engagement between different community groups and with the WCC.

One of the projects is an underwater garden near the Boat Shed on Taranaki Wharf which is led by Steve Journee (The Dive Guys). With the help of Victoria University's Coastal Ecology Lab and the Island Bay Marine Education Centre, Steve has reintroduced a number of species to the inner harbour, including strap weed, red algae, and sea lettuce. Steve says while there are more than enough nutrients in the harbour to support seaweed species, they struggle to survive due to the unnatural abundance of kina – which like nothing better than to graze on the plants.

"Due to a number of factors, such as land reclamation, pollution and other forms of human interference over many decades, we've managed to upset the natural equilibrium in the harbour – allowing kina to dominate the ecosystem." By carefully monitoring this area for kina – and relocating them himself – he's found that the seaweed can thrive. He also draws on help from

Wellington Underwater Club

Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com

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Steve Journee holds aloft two of his kina-eating starfish, which are helping in his work to restore the ecosystem in the inner harbour.

an army of 11-armed kina-eating starfish, which he's relocated to form a defensive ring around the area. Although the garden is still in its infancy, Steve's already seen a marked improvement in biodiversity – with more fish, rays, sponges, limpets, snails and molluscs frequenting the inner harbour. He wants to show Wellingtonians that – far from being lifeless and barren – the harbour can support an abundance of marine plants and creatures – provided we take care of it.

"This garden is in an area where hundreds of people walk by each day. "If they look into the water and see a hive of activity, I like to think they'll be far less inclined to allow litter and pollutants to wash into the harbour from stormwater drains."

Ultimately Steve would love to see a Blue Belt of thriving marine ecosystems that link the harbour to the Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

For more info contact Steve on:  
[info@thediveguys.co.nz](mailto:info@thediveguys.co.nz) or check  
[www.thediveguys.co.nz](http://www.thediveguys.co.nz)

Follow Blue Wellington on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Blue-Wellington/231532720216256>

## What our Members have been up to this Summer

### Diving in the Winterless North – by Alan



A big HELLO to all of my fellow divers in Wellington and a bit of a catch up ☺

Well as most of you know, I have moved back to Waiuku (Google it!!) and life has been quite hectic since having to pack up and

move, especially as I have still not moved into my house yet, I am camping out at my sisters!!

I was able to get the boat out though and managed to go diving between Xmas and New Year with Nicole and Naomi over at Opito Bay on the Coromandel.

The water was a very pleasant 19 Deg and the scallops nice, fat and juicy.... Yum!!



We were also blessed with some great visibility underwater which made taking some great photos a lot easier as Nicole will attest to. I am sure she will show you some photos next time you see her ☺

Our last day of diving was in a sheltered spot behind a small Island called Motukoruenga Island. Nicole, myself and Morris, Naomi's Dad, were diving while Naomi

was our boat person. The sea was reasonably calm when we went in but the northerly soon cut in and it started to rain with a



vengeance, all of which was very unpleasant for poor Naomi as she was only in shorts, T shirt and lifejacket, Not only did the rain soak everyone but the trip back into the teeth of the northerly made sure we all got wetter than expected.



A month later and the co-owner of my boat returned from Aussie for a holiday and as his sister lives in Cooks Beach on the Coromandel, we felt it was mandatory to get the boat out again and we were not disappointed. The weather was perfect for the 2 weekends in a row and it was great to be diving in some of my favourite haunts and seeing some amazing fish life. The lack of rain has meant that there has been no run off from the hills etc and the water vis has been outstanding.





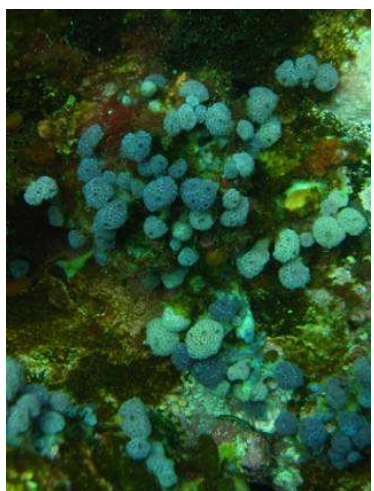
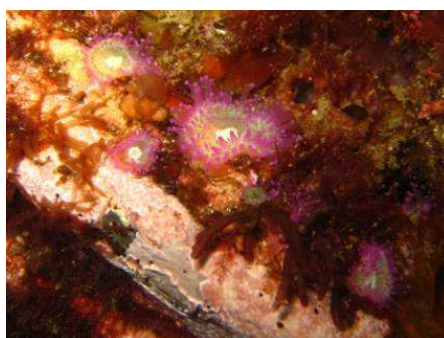
## What our Members have been up to this Summer

### Diving in the Winterless North (cont)

I managed to cozy up with a huge stingray which I didn't get on camera due to forgetting it in our rush to get out of the house and get wet but I am sure we will meet again.

Our next trip is planned for Easter to Matarangi on the Coromandel and I have my fingers x ed that we have some more of the great weather we have been getting and more of the fantastic diving that the Coromandel has to offer. Like they say "Don't leave home till you've seen the Country!!!"

I look forward to catching up with you all soon, take care out there and keep breathing underwater!!! Alan



Wellington Underwater Club

Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com

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## Club Dives: Feb - Mar

Cracking summer weather saw club members out and about on many club dives during February and March - Elsdon Pipe (South Coast), Rocky Bay (Titahi Bay) and the Snorkel Trail (South Coast) - just to name a few.



We had a session in the pool for members to work on specific skills and to adjust and get used to new gear and a skills training dive in the sea with the Wellington GUE crew and interested divers the next weekend.

Check out the calendar on the WUC homepage for all the pool bookings and GUE skills practice sessions coming up over the year.

<http://wuc.wellington.net.nz/calendar.html>



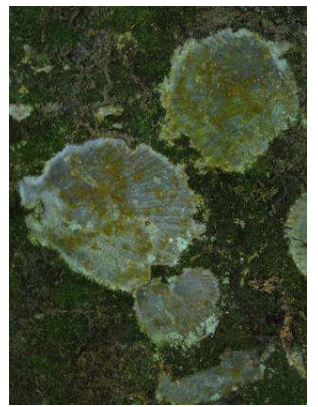
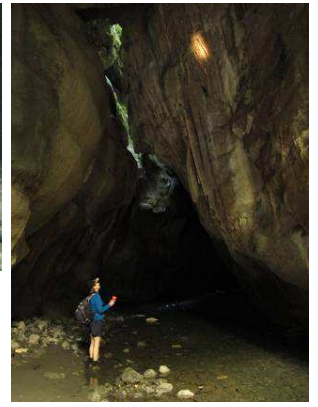
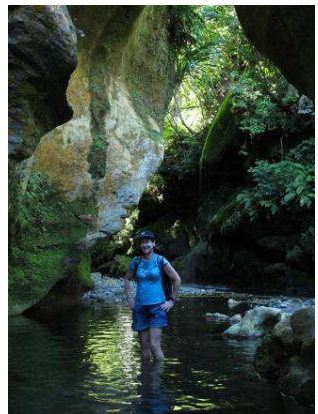
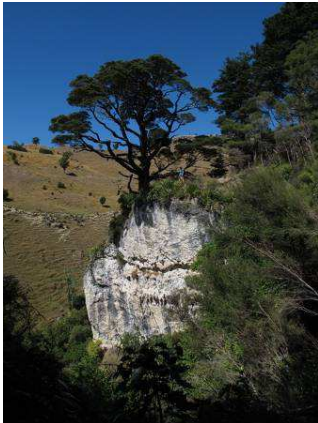


## WUC Summer Splash – Patuna Chasm Walk

What could be better than a walk through a cool and shaded chasm to cool you off from this year's summer heat?



WUC members headed over to the Wairarapa for a social summer walk in the Patuna Chasm. The Ruakokoputuna River carved this gorge over many thousand years and with all the rock formation and wildlife it is a great place to discover and explore.



It's a lovely place and an adventure for young and old kids alike and the farmer is passionate diver himself who retired 2 years ago after his 50 year dive jubilee.



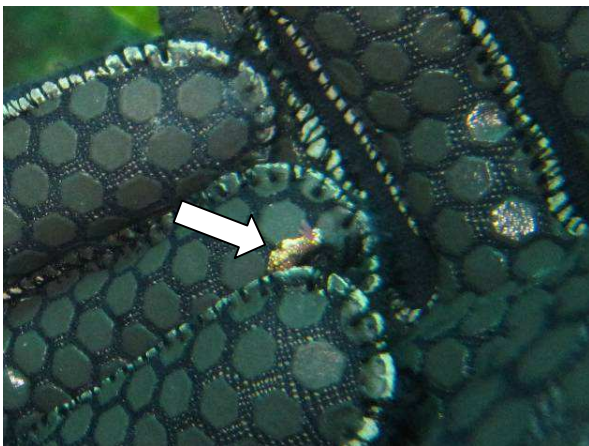


## Critter of the Month

The gaudy maroon and yellow-spotted nudibranch is *Polycera maddoxi* was spotted by Kirstie Knowles on a dive at Rocky Bay on 27th January. There were lots of other nudibranchs around. This one was free swimming in the water column.



This species is endemic to NZ and exclusively subtidal. Most records of it come from the west coast (from Taranaki to Fiordland), but there is also one recent record from the Poor Knights.



*Polycera maddoxi* is similar to the temperate Australia species *P. janjuka*, but *P. janjuka* never has the opaque white patches dorsally.



The critter was formally identified by Dr Richard C. Willan, Senior Curator, Molluscs, Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

[http://www.nudipixel.net/species/polycera\\_maddoxi/](http://www.nudipixel.net/species/polycera_maddoxi/)

The above photo from

<http://www.nudipixel.net/photo/00024919/>

## Sustainable Coastline Training

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Sustainable Coastlines focuses on advancing education and changing behaviour to prevent litter from getting to our coastlines in the first place. We train people (for free) on how to impart knowledge on the effects of rubbish on our marine environment and motivate communities towards simple solutions to address it. Email WUC for more details or check:

<http://sustainablecoastlines.org>



## Kicks and Bubbles

EPA permits New Salmon Farms in Port Gore and other areas in the Sounds

<http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/publications/media-release/forest-bird-concerned-marlborough-sounds-giant-salmon-farms-de>

Find out what lives between the tides at your beach - Marine Metre Squared is a citizen science project that's coming soon to a beach near you! Anyone can participate - individuals, families, schools and community groups. The Marine Metre Squared project and website was officially launched during Seaweed 2013.

<https://www.mm2.net.nz/>

NZ Rocky Shore Guides - on the NZ Marine Studies Centre website: [www.marine.ac.nz](http://www.marine.ac.nz).

Coastal Fishes of NZ - New Edition out now

***You can win one copy at the WUC AGM.***

Order through Craig Potton Publishing or your local book or dive store.

<http://www.craigpotton.co.nz/store/coastal-fishes-of-new-zealand>



## More Summer Adventures

### Blue & Mako Sharks off Gisborne

Gisborne is the place to go if you are keen to see these sharks eye to eye - although we had quite a few sharks this year in Wellington.

Want to know more?  
Email us...



### Summer at a Rock Pool



Rock pool at one of Auckland's West Coast Beaches.