



Greetings

The year is well on its way, the atmosphere is cooling down and we are back to making judgment calls about whether the forecast is going to be right for diving on the weekend ahead. The weather was brilliant for the TecFest in Taupo.



In spite of the weather, there is good diving to be had, especially round our rocky shoreline. It's like when you least expect it, something really interesting happens.

Some of the articles in this Newsletter illustrate that. Dives at Whitireia Park, Island Bay, Rocky Bay and Mahanga Bay netted some great sightings and experiences. Some WUC members of course went further afield and joined up with other dive clubs. That's one of the big attractions about diving – we are part of a wider network, nationally and internationally.

There's an opportunity coming up that will allow you to extend your dive network – WUC is hosting the **NZ Underwater AGM** on **Saturday and Sunday 29-30 June**. It's not just an AGM, there is a photo competition, local dives, talks (such as by the Shark Alliance) and visits (NIWA, Marine Education Centre, Hikitia with MAANZ) plus a dinner. Please take some time to register – there are discounts for WUC members (see the instructions on p2).

Please note – the WUC website is temporarily down for technical reasons

Next Club Meeting

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***Tuesday 28 May
5.30pm Thistle Inn
(note early start)***

Club Newsletter and Updates

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We produce a Newsletter every two months, and distribute it on the weekend before the Club meeting. Short updates on upcoming and new club activities are sent on the other month. We are always keen to hear what diving adventures you've had.

Want a dive?

If you want a dive on a weekday or weekend, just let us know a few days ahead so we can spread the word. Also, if you are interested in a local boat dive or a dive at Kapiti or some more training - let us know.

Upcoming Activities

Club meetings

- 28 May (Tue) – Thistle Inn, **5.30 pm**
- 25 June (Tue) – tbc

Club Dives and Activities- June

- 3 (Mon), Local Boat dive for experienced divers
- 15 (Sat), Kilbirnie Pool (4-6 pm)
- 22/23 (Sat/Sun), GUE and Skills practice dive (details tbc)

We'll be regularly advertising more **local club dives** by email.

29-30 Jun (Sat/Sun): NZ Underwater AGM, hosted by the Wellington Underwater Club. The club sponsors club members with free attendance to the AGM (including lunch) and subsidised NZUA dinner. Registration for dinner is optional and will be available to club members for reduced price of \$40. Register at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NZUAAGM> & under **payment**, choose **other** and note "WUC member".

July

- 20/21 (Sat/Sun), GUE and Skills practice dive (details tbc)

August

- **3-4 (Sat/Sun)**, Weekend trip to Rotorua for the **Tough Guy and Gal Challenge** - Get Fit and Meet the GUE Crew from Auckland.

September

- **24-27 (Tue-Fri): Poor Knights Cavern and Caves, 4 day liveaboard** with an option to sign up for a TDI cavern and/or cave course with Jamie Obern or to just come along diving.

Waitomo Caves: Register your interest now - details tbc - Lost World tours optional

- **28 (Sat): Educate to Eliminate** - annual clean up organised by the Dive Guys, 10am-1pm

More Upcoming Trips and Courses

- Our **PADI Open Water Dive Course** is now on, register your interests for the next one
- **Xmas/New Years diving at Northland Dive.** Celebrate a real Kiwi summer and join us. Bring your family and explore the Bay of Island above and below water
- 6-12th April 2014, **Fiordland 7 day liveaboard**, email us for details

Western Underwater Club Trips

Email us for details if you are interested to join their trips to:

- The **Philippines** (31st July)
- **Truk/Chuuk lagoon** (7th Oct)

WUC tank fill discounts

Island Bay Divers and Dive & Ski HQ (Petone)

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WUC has prepaid tank fills at Island Bay Divers and Dive & Ski HQ at Petone for members when participating in club dives.

All you need to do is show your membership card and you will get the concession ticket clipped. This is only for WUC organised open water dives and does not apply to pool sessions.

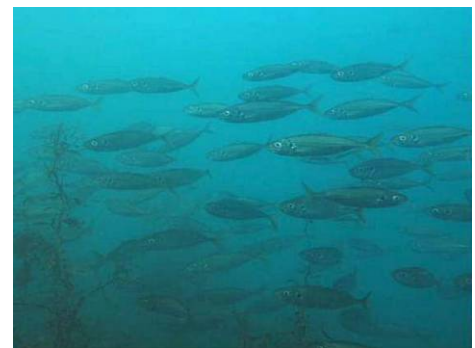
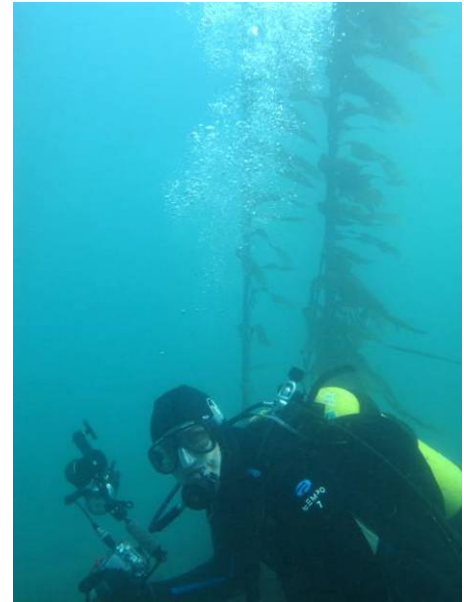
Equipment rental discounts can also apply, so ask about those as well.

Island Bay Club Dive – by Sophie (photos Mike & Sophie)

This was my first dive in four months! The south coast was on: no swell, good visibility, and even some sunshine. For a change, we decided to investigate under the boats in Island Bay, then make our way to the snorkel trail and exit there, with a short walk to get the car.

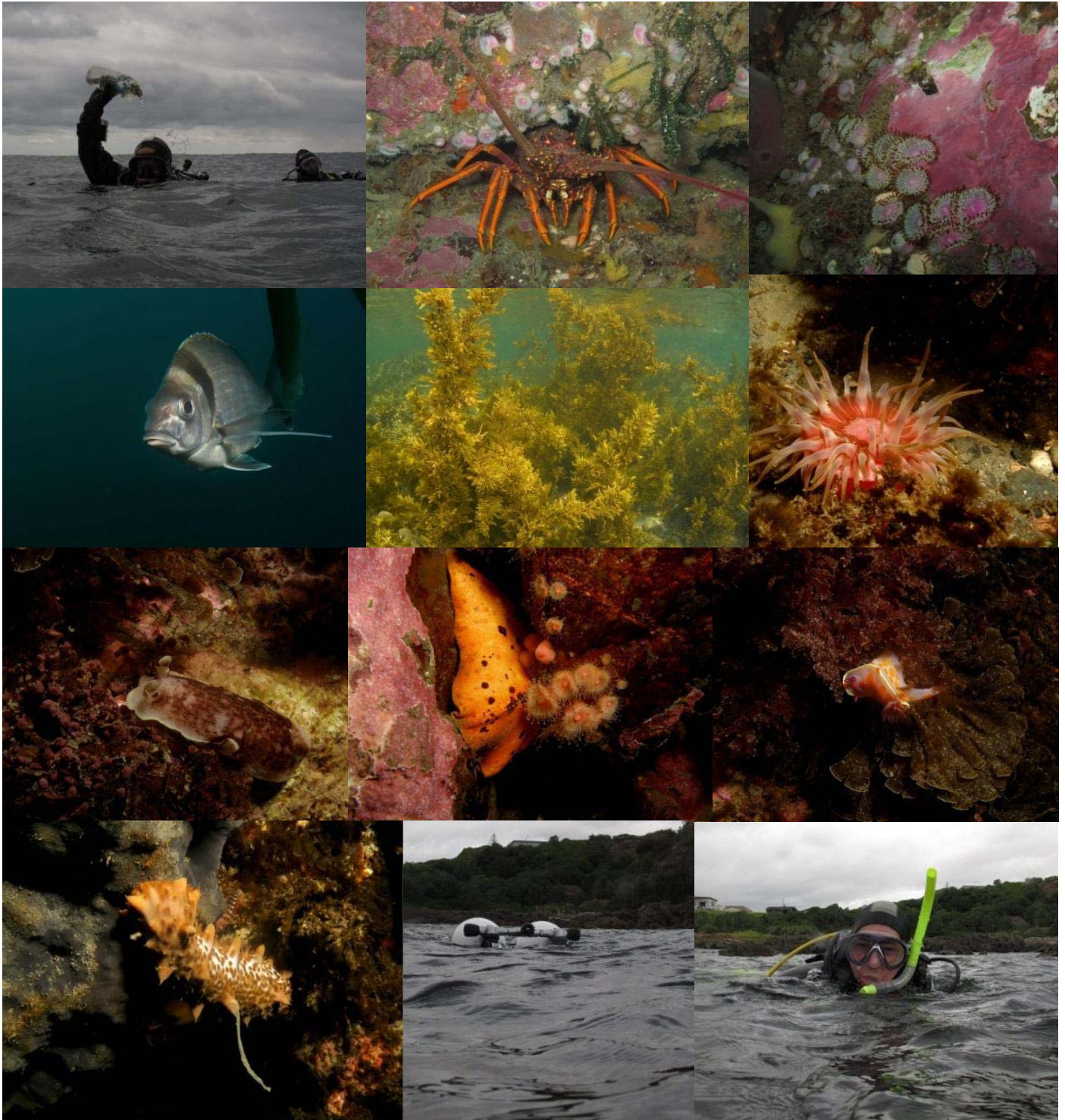
Surprisingly, the dive was fabulous. You wouldn't expect much happening in a sandy bay, but it seemed to be the refuge for quite a few schools of fish... A few kingies circled us on a few occasions (at a distance - the evidence is clear, but not a competition photo), a large school of trevally became quite chummy with us, I reckon to get protection from the kingies. We also saw a school of jack mackerel. There were the usual blue cod (very boisterous), blue moki (enormous), and more scarlett wrasses than I've ever seen on the south coast, lots of triple fins of course, a wellington nudibranch, and on the way back, in one metre of water on the beach... a huge eagle ray which got quite a lot of our attention.

We didn't see sea-horses this time, but I have seen them there before. They can be found attached to the giant kelp you find in the bay. The moorings were cool as well, lots of colours and triple fins... A very cool dive all around. So a site not to be discounted if you want a change.



Rocky Bay – by Rob (photos Mike & Nicole)

Club members did several dives at Rocky Bay in late February - the hunt was on for nudibranchs. We found some, and plenty of other good shots too. Rocky Bay was the location another day as well. The vis was down a bit but it was still a pleasant dive for 67 mins and max depth of 12m. Just cruising around the giant pillars and fabulous walls Rocky Bay has to offer is just awesome. It's such a great feeling to look at your dive buddies and see them high and trimmed up in the water, chilled out and enjoying the dive.



Whitireia Park – by Mike (photos by Nicole, Mike & Brian)

Two great dives at Whitireia Park. The first was on the inside (straight out from our parked cars on a bearing of 30° across the harbour) and the second dive starting after a walk over the saddle followed by a long dive round the point back to our cars.

We met up with Dive and Ski HQ who had planned an Open Water course. Our divers did some practice of their own.

The most entertaining part of the first dive was an octopus which didn't seem to want to leave as we saw it several times. There were also nudibranchs, an eagle ray and schooling jack mackerel.

The second dive started on a NNW bearing once we'd cleared the rocky entry point. We then turned East to followed the kelp line into the harbour. Among the rocky crevices we found a sting ray and a rare sea hare (good spotting Nicole) and Colin managed to bust his longest dive record again.



Mahanga Bay – by Rob

We decided of all places to dive at Mahanga Bay. Most dives you find something interesting and well, first thing I found was yet another dive knife to add to my "Divers Folly" collection. Next up a bunch of lead sinkers, one of them handmade, and then the usual Golf balls. But one item that I found has actually turned out to be quite the antique. This "Asiatic Pheasant" plate is in actual fact around 140 years old and Asiatic Pheasants was the most popular dinnerware pattern of the Victorian era; its principal production and popularity virtually coinciding with the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901).

This fascinating bit of history was born from the potters Kiln in Tunstall Staffordshire in the UK. While the plate has been soaking to try to remove some of the Barnacles to attempt to reveal some of the actual print on the other side I received an email from the UK confirming the plate piece is original and is between 117-141 years old!

Check out the site:

<http://www.asiaticpheasants.co.uk/index.html>

"Divers Folly" - 2013

Here's a collection of dive knives I have found over the years diving in and around the Wellington region, the yellow one I found at Mahanga Bay is the standard issue of the New Zealand Police Dive Squad and they told me in the past they lost one in the Bay where I found it! (Classic)

The biggest one in the centre I found near Burnham Wharf, other locations include Rocky Bay, Whitirea Park, Waitangi Park and Red Rocks..

I haven't found one for a while so it was nice to get back into my groove.

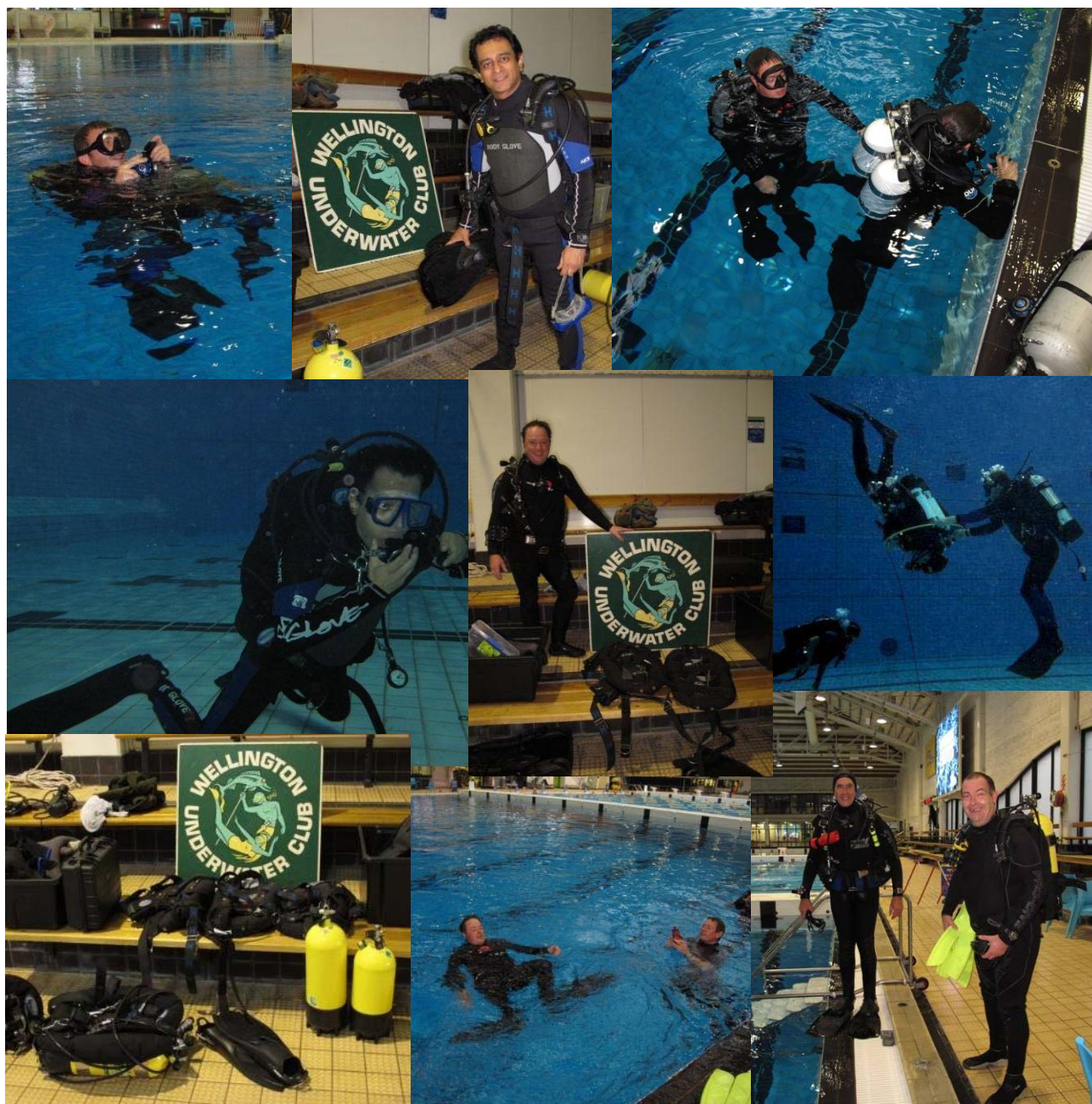
And the one I found recently at Mermaids Kitchen didn't count as the blade was completely gone.



Club Pool Session – by Rob (photos by Nicole)

We had a session in the pool for members to work on specific skills and to adjust and get used to new gear with a great turn out - John, Colin, Nicole, Geoff, Rajiv, Stuart, Brendon and myself. Colin and Rajiv tried out the Halcyon Dive Systems kit for the first time as well.

Really enjoyed getting in the 5m pool and working the usual GUE skills - Basic 5, S-drills, Valve drills, SMB work and also some good ascents and descents at the end. Great skills all around guys and girls and a most enjoyable afternoon out with some great Curry afterwards



Mystery Dive with Western Underwater Club – by Nicole

Thanks to our friends from Western Underwater Club for organizing a fantastic weekend away at Lake Rotoiti close to Rotorua.

Fresh water crayfish and the volcanic rock cliffs were the main attractions in the lake and jumping off the cliffs at the Okere Falls got the adrenaline level spiking up. Good that the local hot springs were close by for a relaxing soak on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

Thanks for taking us along and hope to see you all down in Wellington soon!



Owhiro Bay Dive – by Mike (photos by Malcolm & Nicole)

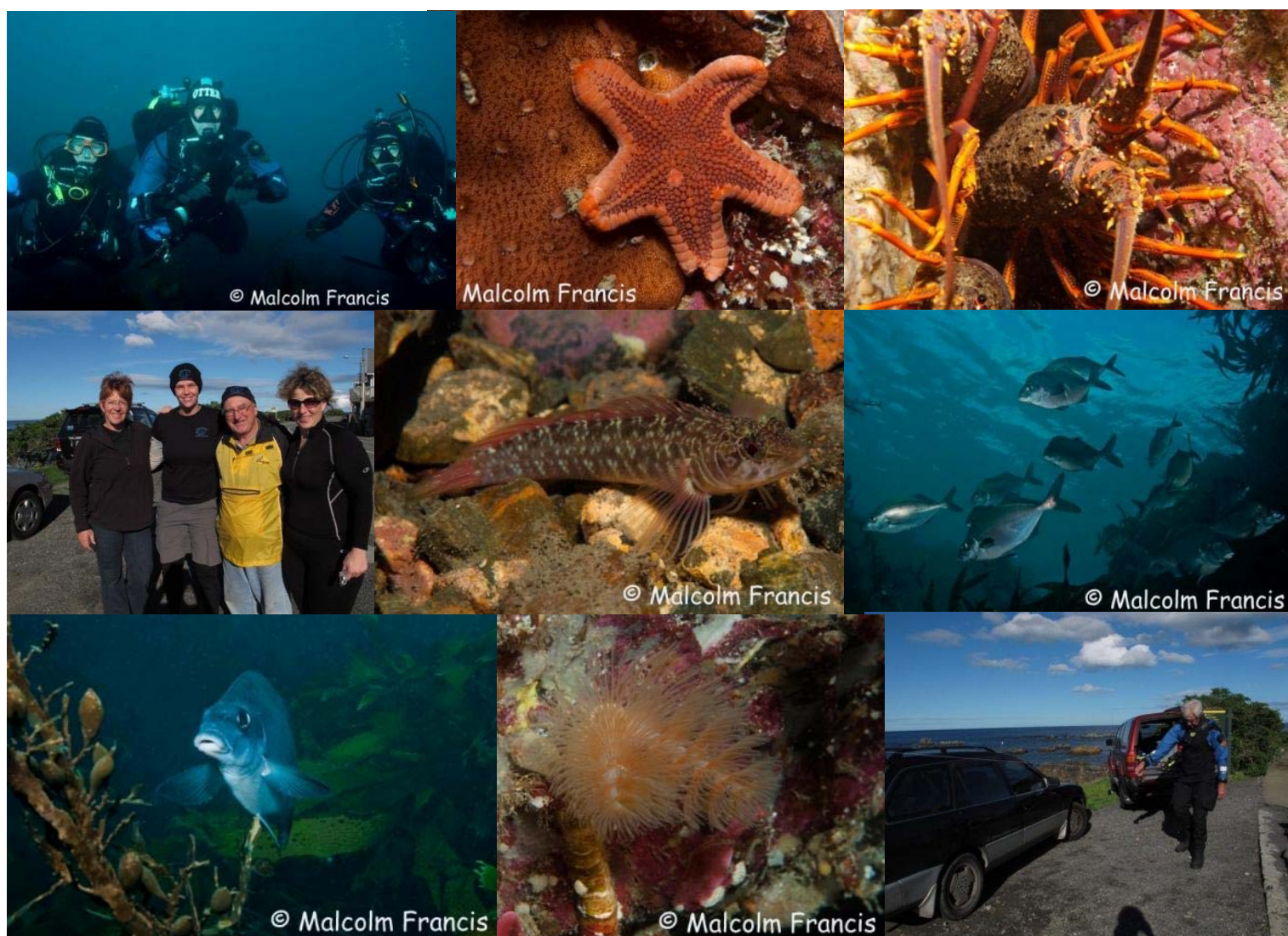
The preceding week had been quite windy, so it was with some surprise that the water on the South coast was clear and calm on Sunday 6 May.

Nicole's images of the Island Bay dive the day before attracted some welcome dive buddies. Mike, Nicole, Sherri and John were joined by Mayor Celia Wade-Brown and esteemed marine author, researcher and underwater photographer Malcolm Francis.

We all saw the two wrecks – Yung Pen (built 1970; foundered in 1982) and Progress (built 1882; foundered in 1931). For information on Wellington wrecks see:

<http://wdg.rexedra.gen.nz/ships/wrecks.htm>

Some good diving and excellent photos.



An update on the TecFest....

... by Nicole

It was a great event with about 50 people attending and a lot of potential to get bigger over the years.

This year the focus during the presentations was mainly on introducing TDI courses - reflecting the background of the speakers at the event. A Blue Creek video and a video of a deeper penetration dive of the Lermontov did showcase world class NZ Tec Diving. Richard Taylor was speaking about cave diving and introduced more Australian caves.

A huge success were the free Intro to Tec classes with a lot of people participating - sponsored by TDI. Club members did a great job in picking up spots and two of our members finished the course with certificates – congrats to Jane and Colin and the other divers from Wellington (Rachel and Zachary)! Motivation is high now for more practice during one of our pool sessions

It was great to see different equipment hands-on and the participants were keen to test lots - Shearwater computers, drysuits, sidemount and for most of us it was probably the closest we got to rebreathers and the idea of side mount rebreathers. Great to catch up and meet new divers from around the country and I was surprised by the number of people that came from the Wellington region - probably a third and this was fantastic for networking.

... by Paul

What a great weekend! The highlight for me would have to be seeing so many people getting interested in technical diving. It was brilliant seeing people trying out different things and I'm sure there are a lot of people out there now thinking about what they are going to do next with their diving.

I also think Wellingtonians were well represented there and it's exciting to see the tech community in Welly grow. Now we just have to start doing the dives to make it all worth while!

... by Annette

It was a great weekend and a great opportunity to meet other divers with similar interests. Having so many people contribute with information and the opportunity to try new gear in a fun and relaxed environment was fantastic.

If you haven't got a chance to come along to TecFest and you are interested in a presentation about rebreather technology or the Shearwater diver computers email the club.

... by Brent (Organizer and Go Dive Marlborough)

TecFest was a huge success and I already have a list of businesses and speakers wanting to attend next year's event. I have also found another possible venue with a conference room and ample accommodation on site.

Keep an eye on the TecFest web site and Facebook updates for more info.

Please thank the Wellington Club for their sponsoring of the drinks and nibbles for me.



Looks like great fun!

Activities that may interest you

Challenge Rotorua's MUD

Sign up now

This team event is for all the divers who want to get fit and want to 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 3rd 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.

Event Details: **3rd August** in Rotorua

For more details and to register your interest email Wellington.Underwater@gmail.com or check out the link below.

http://www.eventpromotions.co.nz/Mud_Run/Tough_Guy_and_Gal_Challenge



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

MAANZ

A voice for maritime Heritage within NZ

Email: info@maanz.wellington.net.nz

Upcoming MAANZ Meetings:

At 7.30pm; Museum of Wellington City and Sea

10 June

'Wellington Regional Council Underwater Heritage Programme '
by Laura Paynter and Andy Dodd

24 July

'Shackleton Bear Goes South'
A trip to Antarctica and the sub-Antarctic
by John McCrystal

21 August

'Wairarapa Maritime History and Shipwrecks'
by Ken Scadden

Kicks and Bubbles

Dive Hobart, Tasmania. Keen to look for weedy **sea dragons** and **sea caves** in Tasmania. We'll have a club member over in Hobart on weekends 12-13 October, and possibly 19-20 October. Let us know if you are keen to join. To get a taster check out some wonderful videos from the local dive centre. Take look at **videos** of some [highlights](#) of **diving Cathedral Cave**, or a [tour](#) through the Cathedral Cave system:

<http://www.eaglehawkdive.com.au/>



Bring on the next skills session...

Greater Wellington Regional Council – River and Streams website

The web pages showing river flows are very useful to understand how much (rain)water goes into/through our rivers.

<http://graphs.gw.govt.nz/rivers-and-streams-2/>

It is possible to drill down into the flow records for each of the tributaries of the Hutt River to find out their flows. Swimming sites are included as well.

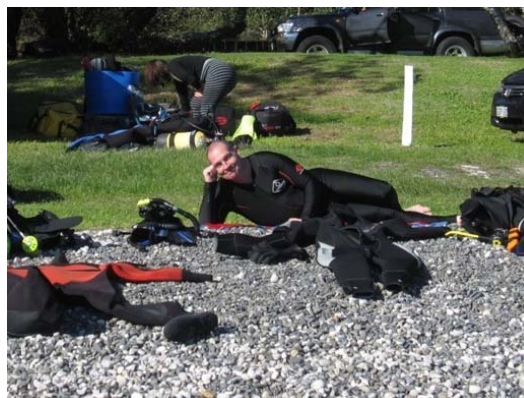
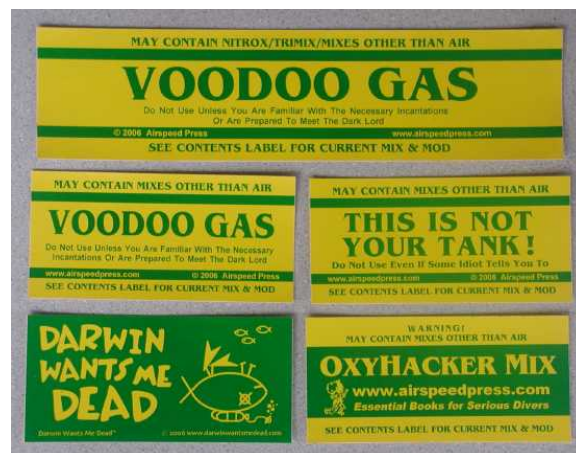
Interested in the **cave diving** expedition to the **Pearse Resurgence** then check out <http://www.wetmules.com/home/pearse-resurgence>

Download a 3D model of the Resurgence, watch some videos and read the trip reports from 2010, 2011, 2012.

Another article on the Pearse is available on: <http://www.advanceddivermagazine.com/articles/pearse/pearse.html>

Anyone need **Nitrox labels** for tanks?

<http://www.airspeedpress.com/stickers2.html>



Working hard during TecFest



Woolen Beanie



Merino Beanie



WUC T-shirt

Prices

Woolen Beanie	– \$14.00
Merino Beanie	– \$29.00
Embroidery and T-Shirt	– \$19.00 (m/f)

With the colder weather settling in the club will order another lot of club beanies. Email us if you want one for your winter dive kit.

We have the WUC logo set up for embroidery and can order T-shirts, jackets or other clothing for club members or you can get the logo on your own piece of clothing or accessories.