



## ***It's officially Spring***

We are over the hump – the shortest day has long past and we are on the way to summer and the longest day. Daylight saving is only a few days away (actually 29<sup>th</sup> September), and that means more after work dives.

31<sup>st</sup> August was the Wellington Underwater Club AGM. A dedicated group fronted up to enjoy the shout and snacks, confirm the Committee and fees and congratulate those who won awards. There were some changes on the Committee – Alan, Sophie and Klare stood down and Phil relinquished the Treasurer role. Our special thanks to them for their work for the Club. Read about the AGM and new Committee on p3.

As it has turned out, Spring is the period when the dive community has focused on marine conservation issues. Internationally, the detrimental effects of accumulating debris in the ocean is drawing attention. Locally, right through September there have been opportunities to join in beach or underwater clean ups.

Shark Week (9<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> September) gave us talks at Te Papa and murals in Wellington to name some activities. These aimed to draw attention to the importance of sharks to the environment and the threats they face. See pages 5, 6 and 8 for more.

Another important point – it's time to renew your membership – see the side bar and p3 for details.

Finally – there are lots of opportunities to get involved in diving and other underwater activities. Read on to see what's on ..... and happy diving.

## ***Next Club Meetings:***

***6:00 pm Thistle Inn***

*Last Tuesday of the month*



***24<sup>th</sup> September &  
29<sup>th</sup> October***



## ***Membership Renewal***



It's that time of year again. An email was sent last week with details about sign up and renewal of membership - fill out membership renewal or new member form and pay your subscription (cash on a club activity, cheque or bank transfer to WUC - details on the form). See p3 for fees.



## ***Want more information?***

If you want to know more about any of the articles in the newsletter, or just want to contact us, just email us at [wellington.underwater@gmail.com](mailto:wellington.underwater@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Activities

### Club meetings

- **24<sup>th</sup> Sept (Tue)** – Thistle Inn **6:00pm**
- **29<sup>th</sup> Oct (Tue)** – Thistle Inn **6:00 pm**

### Club Dives and Activities

#### September

- **28<sup>th</sup> (Sat):** Two opportunities for harbour cleanup dives
  - **8:30am:** Dive Wellington Oriental Bay cleanup. Meet at shop.
  - **10:00am Educate to Eliminate** - annual cleanup organised by the Dive Guys. Starts 10am, safety brief 10:45.  
*See page 4 for details.*

#### October

- **30th (Wed), 5:30pm: Tour of Te Papa off-site fish storage.** The facility is at the south end of Tory St. Meeting point is opposite the entrance to Mt Cook School.  
  
Committee member Mike Penfold has organised this rare opportunity to view the facility.

#### November

- **9th (Sat), 7:30pm Presentation on Cave Diving by Jamie Obern.** Hear about Jamie's latest cave diving projects in Australia and NZ hosted by the Wellington Caving Group.  
  
Venue: Mitsubishi Motors NZ Ltd, Todd Park Business Centre, Heriot Dr, Elsdon 5022, Porirua
- **23 - 25<sup>th</sup> Nov – 3 day White Island Liveboard, all levels.** Email us for more details.

#### December

- **7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (Sat/Sun) 24 hour Dive II (see p4 for more details):** Fundraiser for the Wellington Coast Guard held at Scorching Bay. Organised by Dive and Ski HQ Petone.
- **26<sup>th</sup> Dec – 5<sup>th</sup> Jan,** Celebrate a real Kiwi summer and join us for **Xmas/New Year diving at Northland Dive.** Bring your family and friends and explore the Bay of Island above and below water. We'll be up there and you can join us casually for a few days (or longer) fantastic diving.

### More Upcoming Trips & Courses

- Keen to learn diving or know someone who wants to start scuba diving? Let us know, we are looking at our next **PADI Open Water Dive Course** in Oct/Nov
- **6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014: Fiordland 7 day liveboard.** Email us for details.
- In **Tasmania** between **12-20<sup>th</sup> October?** If yes, take the chance to join one of our club members on dives with the local dive club and the weedy sea dragons. Email us for contact details.
- A few of our club members have booked their spots on a **Scooter Safari** at the Poor Knights end of Nov. Let us know if that sounds like you should be there too!
- Our friends from the **Western Underwater Club** will be off to **Truk / Chuuk lagoon** soon (**7th Oct**). Email us for contact details if you are interested to join their trip.

# Update on WUC AGM - held Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013

## The AGM

Thanks to those who attended the AGM. It's an important part of the Club calendar because it's the occasion when Club members step up to join the Committee and help with the running of the Club, where our finances are reviewed and the fees are set and when we recognise and acknowledge our successes.

There were a few changes to the Committee. Klare Braye, Alan Smithson and Sophie Mormede stepped down from the Committee and Phil Young handed over the Treasurer role but has stayed on the Committee. Our thanks to these members for their dedicated service to the Club. They have all contributed in a major way to the success and growth of WUC.

The new committee is a good balance of experienced and newer members. It's really pleasing that we continue to have members coming forward who are willing to help with the organisational aspects of the Club. Actually, that's how it has always been from the time WUC was established way back in 1951, just a few years after Jacques Cousteau invented SCUBA. Sixty two years of people stepping up to join the WUC Committee – this needs acknowledgement too.

## The new Committee:

**President:** Mike Johnston

**Secretary:** Nicole Miller

**Treasurer:** Sue Nelson

**Committee members:**

Mike Penfold, Phil Young, Rob Wilson and Jane Harkness

## Awards

**Most improved diver:** Colin Davison – The Prize, a voucher for a Kapiti Dive trip

### Photography (photos displayed below)

- Topside: Jane Harkness for 'Diver in the aquarium' – The prize, Coastal Fishes Of NZ
- Wellington Underwater: Jane Harkness for 'Tripplefin' – The Prize, Free WUC club membership
- Underwater: Sophie for 'Diver in a cave' – The prize, Spot X Dive Sites

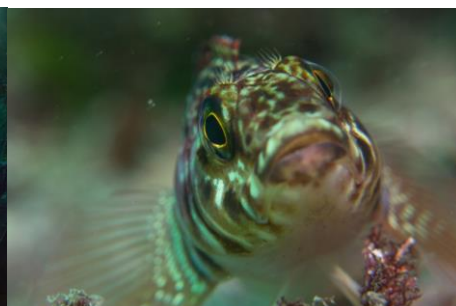
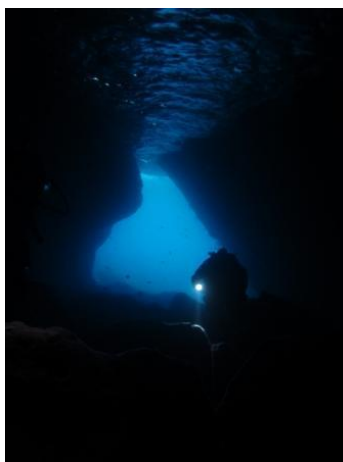
**People's choice photo awards** - voting and prizes:

- Topside: Klare (Ollie) for 'Dinosaur eggs (Sand balls)' - The prize, NZUA 50 year book
- Wellington Underwater: Mike Johnston for 'Octopus' – The prize, Free WUC club membership
- Underwater outside Wellington: Annette Newport for 'Nemo' – The prize, NZUA 50 year book

## Club subscriptions

The AGM confirmed the following subscriptions:

- Membership Renewal (received by 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013) - \$35
- Membership Renewal (received after 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2013) - \$45
- Student Membership Renewal - \$30
- New Members pay \$30 for their first year.



## 28<sup>th</sup> September 10am: Educate to Eliminate - Harbour cleanup

### What it's about:

Educate to Eliminate is the annual cleanup under Wellington harbour wharves, organised by the Dive Guys. It's good fun and also a worthy contribution to the community. WUC always has a good showing.

There are several jobs:- You can pick up rubbish under the wharf as a diver or as a rock walker. General helpers topside are also needed.

You don't have to dive to participate.

**Location:** Refer to the map:

- Red Circle – where we will be working
- Yellow rectangle – drop off
- Yellow arrow – car park pass for first 10 cars
- After that car park pass – yellow circle

**Note:** the cleanup location is slightly different to previous years



### Times:

- 10:45 - safety brief
- 11:15 – divers in water – 60 min dive
- 12:45 - group photo
- 1:00pm – nibbles and beer at Wharewaka

### Contacts:

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Dive-Guys/120088864674572>
- Steve Journee of the Dive Guys is the main organiser and can be contacted at: [info@thediveguys.co.nz](mailto:info@thediveguys.co.nz)

## 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December: 24 hour Dive Challenge II

### What it's about:

The 24 Hour Dive at Scorching Bay is organised by Dive and Ski HQ to fund raise for the Wellington Volunteer Coastguard.

Dive or just come along to be part of it. You can even camp out. Last year divers from all over helped raise more than \$2700 - this year the aim is to make \$5000.

Each diver signs up for one or more 45 minute dives and the aim is to tally up sponsored minutes underwater. Relays of divers will be underwater for the full 24 Hours.

Contact Dive & Ski at: 04 568 5028

- <https://www.facebook.com/events/447327638713927/> or
- [diveskihq@xtra.co.nz](mailto:diveskihq@xtra.co.nz)



## Marine Conservation – a month of meaningful events

Marine Conservation turned out to be a theme for September. WUC members have or will be involved in the following activities:

- 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September: 'Shark Week'.
  - 12<sup>th</sup> September: presentations at Te Papa by shark experts, sponsored by the NZ Shark Alliance (NZSA).
  - 15<sup>th</sup> September: Shark meet-and-greet, Island Bay Marine Education Centre.
- Spring clean-ups round Wellington:
  - 14<sup>th</sup> September – Petone Wharf clean-up dive. Organised by Dive & Ski.
  - 21<sup>st</sup> September – Beach clean-ups organised by Wellington South Coast Spring Clean-up. WUC's area is on the west side of Lyall Bay.
  - 28<sup>th</sup> September: clean-up under Wellington harbour wharves organised by Stephen Journee of the Dive Guys.
  - 28<sup>th</sup> September: Dive Wellington organised clean-up at Oriental Bay.

### Shark week

These local events are a reflection of marine conservation activities occurring world wide. Increasingly, the world is waking up to the fact that sharks, as a top ocean predator, are essential for the health of the oceans. There are increasing efforts to protect them. Locally, the NZ Shark Alliance, which has received some research funding from NZ Underwater Association, is working to eliminate the practice of shark finning in NZ waters. This is the practice of killing a shark only for its fins and dumping the body at sea. It is still legal to do this in NZ waters while 1/3 of the world has banned shark finning.

On 12<sup>th</sup> September at Te Papa, two experts gave presentations on sharks. Malcolm Francis of NIWA spoke on "Keeping track of sharks". This was about the work being done to track the movements of the sharks, such as the great white

and mako, that are seen round our shoreline. The extent of their travels is impressive – sharks range for thousands of kilometres. The work Malcolm is involved in contributes to marine management decisions such as where, when and how to fish to avoid destructive and unwanted by-catch of threatened species.



The experts explaining shark species on display at the Shark Week presentation at Te Papa.

L to R: Milena Palka (NZSA) and shark experts Andrew Stewart and Malcolm Francis (NIWA).

Photo: Claire Murphy

The other speaker was Andrew Stewart, Collection Manager for Fishes at Te Papa, whose talk was titled "Sharks – yesterday; today and tomorrow". We learned about the diversity of sharks. Here is one of the specimens Andrew referred to.



A shark species on display - a frill shark. Primitive, eel-like and 6-gilled.

## Petone Wharf Clean up dive – 14<sup>th</sup> September – by Mike J

Our trash makes its way into the ocean in huge quantities. Project Aware has divers teamed up world-wide to remove rubbish and document what is collected. WUC had a group helping with the beach and underwater clean-up at Petone Wharf. This clean-up, organised by Dive and Ski, has become an annual event.



Beach and underwater clean-up crew at Petone Wharf on 14<sup>th</sup> September. WUC members in the photo: Colin, Nicole, Rajiv, Rob and Mike.

For the record - the clean-up crew removed 138kg of debris from under the wharf and 38kg from the beach. This is a bit more than last year.

Some of the debris is gear dropped from the wharf, such as fishing knives and tackle. At least one fisherman asked us to look for the knife he'd dropped earlier in the year.



Some of the finds from under the wharf – a statuette, fishing knives, golf balls, wire, bolts to name some

One unusual find was a packet of ammunition.

It was a great day, made better by calm conditions, lots of sun and enthusiastic volunteers.

It's great to see the difference that a few hundred plants and a bunch of volunteers of the Friends of Taputaranga Marine Reserve (FoTMR) and the Friends of Petone Beach (FoPB) can make, supported by the local city councils.

FoTMR celebrated the 5th anniversary of the



Snorkel Trail by planting 200 native plants on the coast around the car park and the Friends of the Petone Beach planted 800 sponsored plants around the Petone Settlers Museum.

The vegetation on the South Coast and the



Petone Beach suffered drastically during the big Wellington storm in June this year. The new plants not only make for a much nicer look, they create a new living space for all the coastal animals and will help to protect the beach against future storms.

If you are keen to get involved with regular events of FoTMR or FoPB check their contact details online or get in touch with us.



## Elsdon Pipeline: 24<sup>th</sup> August – by Jane

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August Nicole, Annette and John \_\_\_\_\_ and myself decided to dive Elsdon Pipe. There was quite a bit of faffing with picking up tanks, getting to the site, walking around to select the best entry etc. and my computer log tells me that we didn't get in the water until 12:58.

We were really lucky with one of those still sunny winter days that Wellington does so well and more unexpectedly great underwater visibility. We got into the right of the pipe and dived all the way around to exit on the left. This took us 62 minutes and we got a max depth of 14 metres.

We were all slightly over-specked for a 14 metre dive with two sets of twins and a closed circuit rebreather but we are all relatively new to our setups and pretty much still in training mode. As for what we saw, in addition to the usual blue moki and blue cod we saw three tiny white and gold nudibranchs and a huge crayfish nursery.

A great dive and definitely one to do again.



Jane at Elsdon Pipeline – pre-breathing, checking out her re-breather and twin setup.



John getting ready



Jane, John and Nicole with very good viz at Elsdon Pipeline

## A hero's tale of the Tough Guy Challenge - by Rob

"It will be fun Rob", they said. Imagine paying money to beat yourself up over 6kms of rough terrain and mud ..... ridiculous ..... But fool that I am I decided it would be good for team-building so I signed on.

Well before you knew it, it was race day. We were duct taping our shoes to our feet as apparently the mud gets so thick and deep the sheer suction pulls your shoes clean off your feet.

"Clean off your feet" - that is the only time you will see that word in this tale of woe....

Siren is sounding and we were off at a slow jog, straight up a hill and it was all on. The turn out was incredible .... I thought... "Damn people are crazy .... how awesome is this ...." - heaven forbid, I found myself smiling and enjoying it.

We waded through water, slipped in mud and at one stage we .... well I was wading up to my neck in filthy water (being slightly, vertically challenged). Soaked and staggering from fatigue we ran-walked and jogged the course with the best of them.

We laughed and we screamed at the frigid waters, but we were all **divers** .... we live in the cool green waters of the Southern Ocean. The cold is no stranger to us .... So we flourished like lilies in a pond of scum .... flowered in the graying skies .... and we fought.

We lost a lot of good men that day, well no we didn't really .... although the electric fence shocked most of us in our soaking wet kit which of course amplified the effect.

At the end we crossed the finish-line as we had started .... as a team. And we all vowed to be back next year as well .... Bring on 2014 TG&G challenge...!!





## Kicks and Bubbles

### Suunto High Pressure Hose recall

A notice seen in one of the dive magazines:

<http://www.suunto.com/News/PRODUCT-RECALL-FOR-HIGH-PRESSURE-RUBBER-HOSES/>

### Cold water diving off Vancouver Island

Nice video on Stuff...

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/themes/adventure/9125042/Descending-The-Emerald-Sea>

### Wellington Mural



Did you see the mural in central Wellington which highlights the practice of shark-finning in New Zealand waters?

See an article on Stuff – titled SHARK CAMPAIGN HITS THE WALL ....

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/9144732/Shark-campaign-hits-the-wall>

... Later this month the Ministry for Primary Industries is due to put out its National Plan for Action on sharks for public consultation, which will set out a strategy over the next five years ...

### Poaching in the Marine Reserve – what to do if you see it

At the back of the FoTMR newsletter which was emailed to WUC members, there is information on what to record and who to phone if you see poaching in the Reserve.

Basically, the answer is to record details of the activity (i.e. when, where, what, who and how) and phone the DOC hotline.

DOC Hotline: **0800 DOCHOT (0800 362468)**

There is an Incident Report form in the FoTMR newsletter. DOC duty officers have been asked to contact the callers who report poaching and update on the response taken.

### A corner of the Marine Reserve

Here's a photo by Annette, taken during a dive in the marine reserve. The comment that accompanied the photo – "never seen that many crabs out in such an open space and the photo just shows a corner of it".



## Items of interest

### MAANZ – upcoming events

A voice for maritime Heritage within NZ

[info@maanz.wellington.net.nz](mailto:info@maanz.wellington.net.nz)

Meetings are at 7.30pm; usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Museum of Wellington City and Sea.

Coming events:

**Wed 30<sup>th</sup> October:** Visit Te Papa off-site fish storage, organised by Mike Penfold. WUC members are invited to attend.

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> November:** 'Italian Frogman in WW2' - a talk by Tony Howell.

### Underwater Rugby



WUC sent out a notice about underwater rugby in an earlier email. It prompted **Geoff Henry** to let us know that "WUC played underwater rugby at its training nights at the Thorndon Pool in the very early 1960s, long before underwater hockey was invented". Thanks for the comment Geoff.

#### Underwater hockey notice:

If you've ever wondered what underwater rugby is like then give it a go!

Lazy Seals freediving club organized an introduction night to Underwater Rugby together with Wellington Underwater Rugby. Contact Marcus Walker ([marcus.ryan.walker@gmail.com](mailto:marcus.ryan.walker@gmail.com)) for details.

If you are interested in practicing and furthering your freediving and breath-holding skills check out the Lazy Seals freediving club homepage ([www.lazyseal.co.nz/content/about-us](http://www.lazyseal.co.nz/content/about-us)) or contact Chris [chris@lazyseal.co.nz](mailto:chris@lazyseal.co.nz) for more details on their biweekly training.

### Spearfishing NZ news

Spearfishing NZ is affiliated to NZ Underwater Association. Newsletter #101 was emailed to WUC members on 19 August

### Wellington City Council Consultation on camping in Wellington

Wellington City Council Web Alert Consultation: The following consultation is now available online: [Camping in Wellington](#)

Wellington City Council is proposing to change the Camping Bylaw to help manage camping in Wellington.

Opened: 03 September 2013

Closing: 04 October 2013

Some members might be interested in this consultation, which will set out where camping is and isn't allowed in Wellington, particularly on the south coast. This might have an impact on divers' ability to access dive sites, potential for degraded cleanliness adjacent to dive sites etc. Some WUC members and FoTMR are making submissions.

### Club Items for Sale

#### Prices

Woollen Beanie – \$14.00

Merino Beanie – \$29.00

Embroidery and T-Shirt – \$19.00 (m/f)

Also, 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.