



August 2015

Welcome to our Newsletter

It's been difficult to get good dive conditions around Wellington recently, especially on weekends. Despite that, the Club has plenty going on. In the following pages you'll find examples of the activities, which include:

- Club dives, usually shore dives, but occasionally a boat dive. Quite often these are combined with a breakfast or brunch session near the dive site.
- marine conservation and advocacy (e.g. submissions to Council on the environment and helping with harbour cleanups)
- technical diving and photography
- pool sessions for skills improvement
- a marine archaeology course.

There's a more detailed explanation of our achievements during 2014-15, later in the newsletter.

Please note we have the AGM coming up – details in the text box to the right. We would like a good attendance as it's an opportunity for Club members to have an input on how the Club is run. The AGM will combine with a breakfast – there's a voucher to help defray the cost.

The Committee has some major decisions to make concerning expenditure (i.e. concerning plans to purchase scooters) and we'd like members to have their say.

The AGM provides an opportunity to review where we are at. We'd like members to get involved in Club activities, especially if there is something that triggers your interest.

In the meantime, let's hope for better and more predictable weather so that we can do more diving.

Next Meeting:

2015 AGM

Sunday 30 August, 8am to 9am

@ Spruce Goose, Lyall Bay

This is a breakfast session - \$15 voucher for those attending

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AGM includes a photo & video competition and display

Want more information?

If you want to know more about any of the articles in the newsletter, or just want to contact us, then email:

wellington.underwater@gmail.com

Upcoming Activities

For more information on the following activities, please see our regular emailed news bulletins or visit our website (www.wuc.org.nz).

Club meetings

- **AGM and Boat dive – Sunday 30 August at Spruce Goose café, Lyall Bay.** Meeting is a breakfast session and commences at 8:00am.

There is a \$15 breakfast voucher for those attending.

The AGM is followed by a boat dive – get in touch with us for details and bookings (limited spaces available).

Dives and Other Activities

August

- **Sunday, 23rd August: Taputeranga Marine Reserve - 7 year anniversary,** all-Wellington dive get-together (\$5 donation to FoTMR trust), group photo before the dive to celebrate the marine reserve for publication in newspapers and dive magazines.

September

- **18 - 20 September: Poor Knights dive with Oceanblue (Mazurka).** Jane is the organiser. A few places still available. Contact the Club email address.
- **Saturday 26 September: Wellington South Coast Clean Up.** See page 2. The annual shoreline clean-up. WUC us allocated a section along Lyall Bay (back-up day is **Sunday 27th September**). If you can spend an hour of two helping out, we'd like to hear from you.

October

- **Thursday, 22nd October: Wild Ocean photo presentation & Cub drinks:** Meet for drinks at Mac's Brewery at 5.30pm. Presentation at 7.30pm in Te Papa, One of the world's best-known underwater photographers, Brian Skerry shares images

and stories from his most recent National Geographic assignments. Brian, is a passionate spokesman for the

- **24 – 26 October (Labour Weekend): WUC is hosting Nelson Underwater Club.** There will be local dives which WUC members are invited to join in. Expect also the odd bit of socialising.
- **Saturday 31st October: Pool Session at Kilbirnie Pool.** Meet at the pool at 3pm and join us for a pool session from 4 – 6pm.

November

- **21st November: Educate to Eliminate (E2E).** WUC has been involved for a number of years in this annual clean-up in the harbour sponsored by WCC. It's usually near Taranaki wharf (location yet to be confirmed). Opportunities to help in the dive or shoreline clean-up. Ends with socializing in a local bar.

FB: [Wellington Harbour Spring Clean 2015](#)

Club photo & video competition

There is a Club photo and video competition with displays and results announced at the AGM. Categories:

- Best Wellington Underwater Photography (Greater Wellington Region)
- Best Underwater Photography
- Best Topside Photography
- Best Video Clip – NEW category

Photos and video entries needed to be taken in the past year.

Harbor clean-up

Educate to Eliminate (E2E) – Wellington Harbour clean-up



For a number of years WUC members have joined scores of other divers to help in the annual clean-up in the harbour. The event is sponsored by WCC, and the mayor who is a diver gets involved as well.

It's usually near Taranaki wharf (location yet to be confirmed). There are diving and topside opportunities to help. You can join a dive or shoreline clean-up team.

There is another team who wash the retrieved debris, such as bottles and cans, to save any marine critters that are brought to the surface. This marine life often finds its way to the Island Bay aquarium or is simply returned to the sea.



The photo to the left shows some of the items brought to the surface – in the foreground is a shopping trolley, and the trailers in the background are filled up with all sorts of rubbish.

This E2E clean-up is on 21st November this year. More details will be advised by email nearer the time or on Facebook:

[Wellington Harbour Spring Clean 2015](#)

Coastal clean-up

South Coast Clean

The WUC team has a section of Lyall Bay shoreline to clean up. Here are some of the WUC team at last year's clean-up.

There are many other teams right along the South Coast. The event is well organised and the accumulated pile of rubbish from all teams is large. It is worth the effort

Date for this year is 26th September. Watch out for more details and sign up to FB: [Wellington South Coast Clean-up](#).



Some of the WUC South Coast clean-up team 2014

Impromptu Clean-up

Some time back, Geoff, Nicole and Jane were on a Club training dive and found old abandoned fishing gear which they removed from the Taputeranga Marine Reserve.

We've also done a clean-up at the Kumutoto stream recently.



Geoff and Jane with the retrieved fishing gear

Sherri, Nicole and Marlene (taking the photo) counting rubbish retrieved at Kumutoto wharf.

Club Activities (cont)

Sidemount pool session – text by Sue



Dry run before the pool session



Nicole in sidemount set up

Last year a small group of divers gathered at Kilbirnie pool for the sidemount experience.

Chris Clark from Dive Wellington brought all the equipment including tanks & harnesses for us to try out. Instead of the normal inflatable jacket which holds your tank, for sidemount you wear a close fitting harness which has a small capacity for inflation and then hang a tank on clips on the harness either side of you.

I expected to sink like a stone with two tanks and minimal inflation but I actually had trouble staying down as it was a bit tricky dumping the air.

We swam around in the pool practicing unhooking the tanks and moving them forward as you might need to do in a confined space.

Chris generally dives with a sidemount setup although it is more commonly used in cave diving.

It was easy enough to use the equipment and without a tank on my back it gave me an unexpected free feeling in the water.

If you get the opportunity I recommend giving sidemount a try.

Elsdon Pipeline shore dive

This was a 75 minute dive, from south to north around the Elsdon Pipeline rocks. Mike, Rob E, Sophie and Nicole were on this dive. It was a calm and sunny day, no surge and the visibility was as good as it gets. South coast at its best – an epic dive.



Makara – boat dive

We had an inflatable and went out from the Makara car park. Two dives – the dive sites were north and south of the car park. Mike J, Sue and Frannie were on this trip.





South coast - shore dive

Another great dive from out in front of Dive Wellington shop. It was a calm and sunny day, preceded by a week of offshore winds which meant the conditions on the south coast were really good.

It was a large group of WUC members, with Rob Wilson as the guide. We went left (northeast) and Rob led us through swim-throughs and across a pebbly and sandy bottom. Lots to see, including an octopus, schooling fish, nudibranchs and of course crabs and anemones.

Snorkel Trail - night dive

A group of Club members did a night dive starting at 6:45pm (in March) at the Island Bay Snorkel Trail in the Marine Reserve. Excellent viz and lots of wandering anemones.



What Wellington Underwater Club has achieved in 2015

Range of dive activities. We have a broad range of activities available to WUC members, including:

- Technical diving
- Marine archaeology and marine conservation
- Recreational diving
- Underwater photography
- We are also currently investigating the purchase of two scooters for use by Club members.

Summary of the Club activities for the past year:

- **Club Dives** – ten organised Club dives, mostly shore dives. Includes a dive on F69 and an after work dive. Also a dive weekend in Northland. The Club ran four pool sessions at Kilbirnie pool.
- **Technical diving** – GUE Scooter, gasblender and documentation diver courses as well as a cavern and cave dive weekend at the Poor Knights. Attendance at the Taupo TecFest weekend. We also have an active group of divers with rebreathers.
- **Annual fixtures** –
 - WUC had a strong showing at the 24 hour dive run as a fundraiser for the Coast Guard.
 - Teams of WUC members took part in a harbour clean-up – Educate to Eliminate (run by the Wellington Harbour Clean Up group).
- **Maritime Archaeology** –
 - Last August we ran an Australasian Institute of Maritime Archaeology (AIMA) course organised. Sixteen people attended, four from Auckland.
 - WUC has club membership of Maritime Archaeological Association of NZ (MAANZ). WUC members regularly attend the monthly MAANZ meetings.
 - We are hoping to make progress on some archaeology projects with MAANZ to utilise the AIMA training.
- **Social** – the most popular activities have been a breakfast or brunch together with a Club dive. We had six of these during the year.
- **Marine Conservation advocacy** –
 - The Club supported other local marine interest groups, including Taputeranga Marine Reserve Trust, and made two submissions to Council, backed up with verbal presentations. These submissions by multiple advocacy groups have had some success i.e. WCC's recently released Biodiversity Plan now recognises Wellington's 'magnificent harbour and coastline' and refers to the coastal 'blue belt' including a list of actions that are needed to enhance the coastal and marine environment.
 - The Club also made a Resource Consent submission on the Reena wreck, along with other dive clubs. WUC is on the watch list for the Consent process.
- **Website and facebook page** are maintained.
- **NZUA AGM** in Tauranga was attended by a WUC 26-28 June 2015.
- **Dive shop discounts** - discounts are available at two dive shops for tank fills on Club dives.

Items of Interest

NZUA's Trash2Cash 2015 Dive against Debris in September

In September this year NZUA (NZ Underwater Association) will be encouraging all dive clubs, shops, groups, workplaces, and organisations to get on board the [Dive against Debris](#) campaign being run by [Project Aware](#).

NZUA will be helping groups facilitate their own Dive against Debris, in which teams collect and record debris picked up off the ocean floor. All data is uploaded to a [World Map](#) which logs every dives location, as well as the breakdown in types of debris collected! It is a really fantastic resource, and not only a great way to help the environment - but also a way to participate in the only world-wide scientific research being conducted in which members of the general public can contribute!

If anyone is interested to help with this project, please let us know. If you would like, you can email Andrea on andrea@nzunderwater.org.nz to find out how to register your team for NZUAs Trash2Cash 2015! NZUA will be asking for donations from people in our communities the goal is to raise \$10,000.00 from this!!! So get everyone you know involved and see how much your team can raise!

Club subscriptions

WUC subscriptions are due 30th November. Current fees are:

- Membership Renewal - \$35 (\$45 if received after 1st Dec)
- Student Membership Renewal - \$30
- New Members pay \$30 for their first year.

Experiencing Marine Reserves (EMR)

This is a group of volunteers that introduces kids to the marine environment. The focus of the programmes is to create positive practical outcomes, using the knowledge gained to create a conservation action that benefits our marine systems. The programmes need helpers, so if you are interested, we can put you into contact with EMR people.

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.

What to do if you see poaching in the Marine Reserve

Friends of the Taputeranga Marine Reserve (FOTMR) advise what to do if you see poaching in the Marine 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)**

DOC duty officers have been asked to contact the callers who report poaching and provide an update on the response taken.

In Memorium

It is with regret that I have to advise the death of two long standing Club members.

Peter Silvester

Peter was an active member of the Wellington Underwater Club and was involved in diving for many years. He attended Club monthly social meetings right up to the end. Peter was a Life Member of the Club. His funeral was in Kilbirnie and was attended by past and present WUC members.

Joe Tomlin

Joe was an active member of Wellington Underwater Club in the early days and has several mentions in the NZUA 50 year anniversary book. Joe's funeral was in Tairua in June.