

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club Newsletter November 2020

Club Meeting: Wed 11th November 2020

Club Rooms : 7:00pm

Guest speaker: BBQ & Video - MV Taioma

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



**Club's Mail Address:
14 Gails Drive
Okura
RD 2 Albany**



**Club Contacts
Phone numbers & emails
Committee listing inside**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2020/2021

President/Editor	Denis Adams	0278 970 922	da.triden@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Margaret Howard	0274 839 839	marg.howard@xtra.co.nz
Sec/Treasurer backup	Trish Mahon-Adams	0272 715 410	t.triden@gmail.com
Committee	John Freeman	021 983 610	john@witblitz.net
Web Site	Matt Gouge	021 0777 282	mattgouge@gmail.com
Dive Trips Organiser	Vacant – Note any Club member is welcome to arrange one		
Adventure Trips	Martin Saggars	410 2363	saggersmar1@orcon.net.nz
	Kate Ellis	410 2363	kate65nz@orcon.net.nz
Entertainment	Tom Butler	624 3505	trbutler@xtra.co.nz

Life & Honorary Members

Barry Barnes – Life	Peter & Margaret Howard – Life	Brian Horton – Life
Reg Lawson - Life	Roberto Tonei – Life	Dave Quinlan – Life
Graham Thumah – Honorary	Tony & Jenny Enderby - Honorary	Eileen Slark – Honorary

Cover Page Photo:– SCUBA ‘Powow’ in Tonga by Denis

What’s on our coming agenda?

11th November – Wednesday – 7:00pm – BBQ & Video - Dive Club meeting - NSCC - Northcote Rd Ext.n

15th November – Sunday – 8-30am 0n – Cornwallis beach – Canoe – BBQ – Swim etc. See details below.

Postponed tbc – Group going to Rarotonga – Diving, snorkelling trip - contact Margaret if keen to join in.

You will need to contact the shops

Upcoming Trips with Performance Dive NZ you may be interested in 2020 - Ph. 489 7782

Sat– 9:00am 14th Nov – Local boat dive departing Takapuna or Omaha

Sat – 7:30am 21st Nov – Whaktane – White Is. Advanced Divers – Weather dependant.

Sun– 8:30am 22nd Nov – TBC - Local boat dive departing Whakatane or Omaha

Upcoming Trips with Global Dive you may be interested in 2020 - Ph. 920 5200.

Sat 14th Nov – Marsden Cove Nature Reserve Islands – w/Yukon

Sat 21st Nov – Poor knights Is day trip w/Yukon Dive

Sat 5th Dec – Scuba Saturday Leigh Coast

Sat 12th Dec – Mokohinaus Islands

Sat 12th- 13th Dec – Bay of Islands Weekend

Other events & suggestions please contact a committee member or organise it yourself & get the club to make up your numbers. i.e. – Dives, trips NZ & O’Seas, Events, Outings, Tramps, Dinners, Movies, whatever social event tickles your fancy.

Our Club’s Trip Rules (Organiser’s rules apply for overseas trips)

- A. Bookings allowed on all trips. *Two trips & club membership is a must.*
- B. A deposit or full payment to be made at time of booking.

- C. Full payment MUST be paid at least two weeks before departure date.
- D. Trip Organiser to handle trip & bookings, & Treasurer to handle finances. Cancellations due to weather will be refunded in full, or transferred to another trip.
- E. Members cancelling for any reason will lose full monies unless they find a replacement for their position on the trip.
- F. The trips Organiser will determine if there are enough people to run a trip & if not will notify cancellation two weeks prior to departure.

Non-Members & non-financial members will be charged an extra \$10 on trips.

Membership: Single – \$40 Family - \$50.00

see Margaret or Trish next meeting or do it online.

Club's Internet bank account is 06 0122 0074227 00 & don't forget to put in your name

Club Membership also includes Affiliation to the New Zealand Underwater Association

BREAKFAST at the BEACH Revisited!

Join me on Sunday the 15th of November 2020.



CORNWALIS BEACH. Site No. 1

I have booked the High Tide for 12'ish.

Anytime from 8.30am! Parking is free, but the closest spots go fast.

If later you might need to drop off chilly bin etc then park.

We have Picnic Spot number one, closest to the car park. The 1st Shaded BBQ area.

Coffee & Tea, hot water available, and maybe a Gin & Tonic for Elevenses.

BBQ's are available, bring own bacon and eggs or whatever you want to cook.

Have your first swim of the season. Kid safe beach

Bring your canoes. Will have a couple of spare ones to borrow.

Plenty of walks to do. Shade and chairs available.

Chris Nipper 021 991 732. Akidna27@gmail.com

MV TAIOMA

TAIOMA HISTORY

The 'Taioma' was built in 1944. Originally called the 'Empire Jane', she had a coal fired boiler (later converted to oil) and a steam driven engine. During WW2 she supported British operations and was used for salvage and rescue duties during the Normandy landings.

In August 1947, the 'Empire Jane' was purchased by the Union Steamship Company and renamed 'Taioma'. The next 30 years saw her in service as a harbour tug in Wellington. She was again used for rescue duties when the 'Wahine' foundered in 1967.

In April 1975 'Taioma' was sold to British Petroleum NZ Ltd. Then in July 1978 she was sold to Sir Robert Owens for \$2.00. In what was the heaviest load to be transported in New Zealand at that time, Sir Robert moved the tug to the



Tauranga Historic Village Museum, where she was open to the public for approximately 16 years.

When the Historic Village was put up for sale in 1998, the tug no longer had a home and seemed destined for scrap.

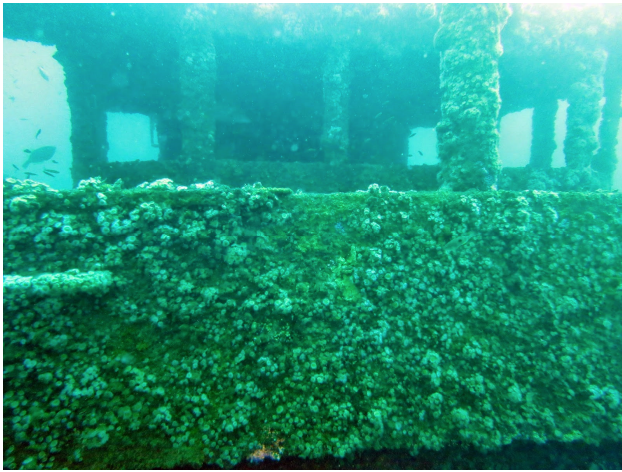
The 'Taioma Reef Society' – consisting largely of Mount Underwater Club members – was formed at that time, with the aim of sinking the tug as an artificial reef off Motiti Island in the Bay of Plenty.

After many months of hard work on the part of a few individuals, Resource Consent was eventually obtained in late 1999.



In another mammoth transportation undertaking, 'Taioma' was moved from the Village to the 600 tonne slipway on the night of 11 March 2000. One week later, on March 19, she returned to the sea and was sunk off Motiti Island.





Today 'Taioma' sits in 27 metres of water in an upright position. She made the transition from wreck to artificial reef very quickly. Numerous holes in the hull made her a safe dive for many years; however caution is advised around the deteriorating structure of the wreck.

We have been privileged to have watched 'Taioma's' transformation since she was sunk. Viz isn't always that great, but a mooring buoy makes finding her very easy, and being a small tug, it's impossible to get lost. 'Taioma' is a great dive, full of life and colour. The ocean is slowly claiming her, but she will continue to be a lovely dive for many years to come.

A pair of divers are lucky to be alive after drifting off-shore near Gisborne yesterday

28 September 2020

The father and son were in a party of three who were diving north of Tatapouri at around nine-am.

They'd left their kayaks tied together and anchored - but windy weather dragged the anchor out to sea.

One of the divers was able to get back to shore and raise the alarm but large swells made the search difficult.

Search and rescue teams found one of the divers five-hundred metres off-shore and another nearly 15-kilometres out to sea.

While neither of them required medical attention, police say it's a good reminder not to go diving in bad conditions.

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The next article found on the net makes for interesting reading, as we all possibly have had an experience of the unusual kind weather scary or otherwise and this may fore-arm you for another one to survive.

20 deep sea divers share their horror stories from underwater.

The ocean is a beautiful place full of wondrous nature, soothing silence, but also a lot of danger.

There are plenty of different types of animals that live deep down under, there are decaying bodies and remnants of shipwrecks, and perhaps more pressing - there is always the possibility your equipment will malfunction and you'll drown.



[Bronwyn Isaac](#)

Sep 05, 2020@8:03 AM

In [a popular Reddit thread](#), deep sea divers shared their scariest experiences underwater, and it reinforces just how powerful nature is.

1. From [NZVikingRugger](#):

I wear contacts so getting water in my mask is extra bad as I can't open my eyes underwater. Shortly after being told about a shark colliding with my friend from behind and removing his mask I am pretty scared about this (not sharks in general.) And I see a shark heading for me. They are curious, they often shoulder bump you as they turn at the last second.

But she wasn't changing course. I stayed calm and still as long as I could and at the last second before she hit my mask I ducked. Except instead of ducking under I just headbutted her right in the nose. Everyone saw and thinks it was the funniest thing ever. I may be the only person alive who headbutted an 11-foot shark in the nose but it was because I was scared she would take my goggles off.

2. From [LtCdrPetrel](#):

I got the bends once. I was careful. Followed my charts and my computer. Had appropriate depths and surface time. But I didn't drink enough water so I was all out of wack.

Felt fine until I got home, mild headache. Then I woke up and it was just pain in my left arm. Elbows. fingers. Couldn't even bend them without bad pain. My headache was intense and I was so dizzy. Called my older more experienced dive buddy and I got rushed to the hospital.

Docs got me hooked up and fluids, checked my dive logs while the decompression chamber was set up. And then got me in there with a nurse. 8 hours in a tube about the length of a car but as wide as maybe a double bed? I was on oxygen and hooked up to an IV and it was so loud, with all the air rushing in. As soon as I got to "depth" the pain vanished. It was crazy.

I'm fine now obviously. But I wasn't allowed to dive for a month which sucked but hey. The dives were pretty great.

3. From [Jollerway](#):

Free dove to about 160 ft in Deans Blue hole in the Bahamas. It's where a lot of the freediving world records are set - super neat place, google a picture.

Anyway, I'd never really been past 100ft freediving, but this was the perfect place to do it. No current, there's ropes to keep you straight and allow a slight pull back up.

Scary part is that you become pretty strongly negatively buoyant after like 60ft, so you're basically hauling a*s down while doing nothing and using very little air. So I'm dazed out a bit feeling good and counting the lines that mark depth and all of a sudden feel pressure like my trachea is going to collapse and wake up and realize I've counted to the line that's around 160 ft or so.

Very scary moment because I wasn't sure if my body could take the depth or if I had gone too far and wouldn't have enough air to get back up, which is a much slower and more air intensive process.

4. From [Specialist Celery](#):

Diving the day before a hurricane on a small south pacific island. Out of nowhere a black and white sea snake (venomous) wrapped itself around my arm. Apparently this happens from time to time before major storms- they can sense it and look for things that are heading towards the shore so that they don't have to put in so much effort to get out of the sea. As soon as I was in the shallows it uncurled and headed up the beach where it hid under a breadfruit tree.

I thought I was going to get bitten to death by a snake at sea. Turns out I was just a taxi for a very calm but rather rushed reptile.

5. From [texasguy911](#):

Well, here is my story.

I was diving in a local pond with a group of much more advanced divers (cave divers) than I (just an advanced certification at the time). I am leading the dive, as to get used to pressures and responsibilities of heading the procession, they are mentoring me. It is a Texas puddle, visibility 10 feet max, not too deep, maybe 25 feet. The known horrible visibility makes it impossible to navigate by compass, we follow a line (string) put by other divers. These lines go from one sunken item to another. So, I know I am about to hit a small sunken boat, don't remember which one, there are a few similar in a row in a same state of decay.

So, I am first in the group, I get to the boat and see someone's black army boot sticking out from the inner quarters. Curious thing is, it looks somewhat new, not like items you find on the bottom. Hard to see, too much muck in the water. So, I touch the boot, thinking it is by itself but it won't lift, like it is attached to something heavy. I put my hand further in and feel the leg continuing out, pants, the calf, and I see the second leg now. F*ck with a big letter F, right?

I turn around and show a sign for the emergency ascent to the group behind me. Everyone has a sour face, no one wants to surface but it is a rule that if one says "up", others in a group must abort, no questions. They wanted me to explain with signs why, but what is a diver's sign for a cadaver? I feel like I rush toward the surface, even though trying to stay calm and take time. So, we are on the lake's surface, I have this adrenaline rush, can't breathe enough. So, I tell them there is a body down there. I see rolling eyes from everyone, once they see I am serious. A

fun bunch, right? So, I describe in detail what I saw. We go down, I don't lead anymore, we make a group search pattern for the line.

But once we locate it, we don't know if we should go forward or backward, as there are a number of boats on the line and who knows in which the body is in and how far we drifted while talking it out on the surface. Well, we find all boats before finding the original one, of course. So, our customary leader goes into the cabin of the boat and we wait. I'd say he was rather courageous at this point, went right in. Then he emerges from the cloud of muck and tells us all to surface.

So, gluing information together from what we learned later on. Turns out the police or some other agency had a body recovery training in the same lake the same day. When they went for lunch, they stuffed their fully dressed anatomically correct rubber doll in one of the sunken boats for a few hours for safekeeping.

Well, I died a little that day.

6. From [SharkByte](#):

Saved someone from drowning while SCUBA Diving... person had an epileptic seizure at 85 feet of water in a pitch-black cavern that I was diving also. I was hovering above just watching the flashlights move about when I noticed one flashlight not moving, I swam down and was met with the other diver with no regulator in their mouth, eyes open and just on their knees. The diver's buddy was next to them and in complete shock to what was going on and was not assisting whatsoever. Fifteen years of diving and instructor training came over me like it was second nature.

I thought her regulator just came out so I popped mine out and offered it to her, that when I noticed she had done mentally checked out. I popped my #2 regulator in my mouth and attempted to put my #1 regulator in her mouth but her teeth were completely clenched...I then press the purged button to get air into her mouth and noticed her cheeks moving so I know air was getting in there.

That was good enough for me, I then grabbed her under her arm and get the regulator flowing in her mouth and swam to the opening of the cavern and then up over 60 feet to get her to the surface. One on the surface did everything I was trained to do, inflate bc, dumped her weights, got her on her back and started towing to land. As I'm towing her in she is regurgitating all the water she swallowed and inhaled, it seemed like gallons of water. Got her to land where other divers assisted me in getting all her gear off.

She was breathing fine and alive but in shock for a while and slowly came around like nothing happened. We were very lucky that we were only 10 minutes into the dive or for sure we would have both been bent and spending time in a hyperbaric chamber. The crazy thing is she didn't tell anyone she had epilepsy and when we later reviewed her consent form she checked off "no" to epilepsy. I put myself at risk shooting up to the surface like that but if I came across that situation again I would not hesitate to save someone's life.

7. From [NoWordOfALie](#):

The only scare I've had is some jacka*s in a yacht cruising through our dive location at full throttle. You could hear the boat coming for a solid minute or two before it flew over our heads.

Our boat had a dive flag on it and we had a buoy with a dive flag on it. They didn't even slow down.

Barracuda, sharks, rays, manatees, dolphins...all cool. Humans are way scarier.

8. From [ThatOneSadhuman](#):

My biology teacher told us that she once was swimming in the south of the Philippines because she was trying to find an elusive sea horse and she went quite deep at night when they are more active and she got attacked by a shark and her team got out fast, the next day they found a turtle that was bitten in half shell included that was pretty big and its supposedly the last time she went diving in that area.

9. From [BareassedM](#):

I once had diarrhea at 100 feet. That sucked. It was amazing how warm it made me at depth, but was a nightmare to clean up. I vomited at my own stench (or maybe from the flu).

Edit: Thank you for awarding one of the most truly horrible experiences of my life. Some say everything happens for a reason. I now like to think I endured that literal shit-show (this happened in front of maybe 20 people) so that years later I would be able to entertain a few anonymous strangers.

10. From [El-Ahrairah9519](#):

Not my story but my parents. They like to scuba dive when traveling and have gone several times over the years. Once they visited Mexico and went diving there before I was born. I'm not sure where they were exactly, but my mom was slightly lower down than my dad and looking at the ocean floor. He was looking up and around. My mom had on a gold necklace that was floating in the water around her, it was a sunny day and a fairly shallow dive so it was sparkling.

From my mom's POV, she was going along having a grand ol time looking at the sea critters below, when suddenly my dad grabbed her and started frantically shaking her arm to get her attention. She looked up and a barracuda was directly in front of her, closer than was comfortable and staring intently, scary teeth on full display. It was focused on the shiny necklace and was just hovering there, transfixed. She slowly moved up her hand to cover the necklace and they slowly and calmly moved away from it and it took off without bothering them anymore, but still pretty unsettling and taught my mom to be a little more aware of her surroundings when diving.

11. From [Kytescall](#):

I dive a lot, several times a week. My area has a lot of theoretically dangerous things - sharks and barracudas, morays and stingrays, blue ringed octopuses, cone snails, box jellies, siphonophores of all kinds, sea snakes, stone fishes and scorpion fishes, venomous catfish, crown of thorns starfish and various sea urchins that can hurt you in several different ways, Titan triggerfish, and so on and so on.

But only one thing has ever got me. Twice. Are you ready? Clownfish. Like Nemo. They are territorial and brave and will get in your face if you're near their anemones. I usually respect their space, but I was distracted watching something else a couple of times, and turns out they will actually bite if you don't leave their space fast enough.

For real though, I don't have particular horror stories, but the scariest moments are probably when I get caught in strong currents and have to crawl on the bottom to fight it, going hand over hand like I'm climbing a horizontal wall. Despite what a lot of people tend to think (especially looking at the daunting list of dangerous animals in my area) sea critters aren't your problem. You leave them alone and it's fine. Sea conditions like waves or currents, and above all human error, are the real killers.

Edit: I just remembered an incident that did scare me - it was a human error/equipment failure issue.

When you're diving, you want to ascend to the surface slowly. This is because under pressure your blood and tissues can hold more gasses (in particular inert nitrogen from your compressed air) dissolved in it than when you're at the surface, and as you ascend to the surface these dissolved gasses have to return to being gasses. If you're slow, you just breathe it out as you come up, but if you're too fast they turn into bubbles of gas in your arteries and veins before they can be vented out. This causes embolisms as well as decompression sickness (a.k.a. the bends).

I was diving with a friend at about 25m (~82ft) when her old beat up BCD (the vest that you can inflate with air to control your buoyancy) started to inflate on its own. This has happened to me before as well, but I just disconnected the air hose from the BC immediately and carried on, and went on to do about 10 dives with a busted BC that I only inflated manually. She didn't think to do that, or didn't have time to do that - this happened very quickly. I saw that she was having buoyancy control issues - she was upside down kicking to try to stay down - but in the few seconds it took for me to realize how bad the problem was, she was already at the surface.

Basically I quickly glanced around to see if there was a rock I could use to weigh her down and when I turned back she was gone. I followed her up, but not too quickly, and even so my dive computer was beeping warnings at me. When we met up I wondered why she didn't use her dump valve (there is a valve at the bottom of the BC exactly for releasing air when you are feet up) especially since she was experienced and should know to do that. Then I saw that the string you pull to open the valve was missing, so it was literally impossible to dump the air when oriented that way. So check your gear before you use it!

I was pretty worried that she would come down with the bends, but she was fine. People are often worried that I dive alone a lot, but honestly, all of my scariest and most anxious moments were problems occurring with other people.

12. From [pourmeabrandy](#):

Not me but my brother, and not deep sea, sorry. He was 18, part of the dive club at his school. They went on a diving trip. The crew that handled the dive counted heads wrong and halfway through the dive the boat went back to shore without them. So there they were 2km from shore with their only option to swim back. There were about 5 of them, 2 girls 3 guys. All of them between 15-18 y/o. About halfway through one of the girls couldn't swim anymore and started crying, my brother along with another guy swam with her, dragging her along, making sure she didn't drown. Everyone made it out ok.

Worst part, school tried to hide it and had the audacity to suspend my brother from school for catching him with a beer while on the trip. Needless to say, they were in deep sh*t when it came out. Not sure exactly what happened though.

13. From [TheHandler1](#):

I was diving under an oil rig between Long Beach and Catalina Island. I was collecting sea scallops at around 60ft or so and knowing that there were seals all around I always kept an eye out for sharks, you just can't help but think about them. So I was just about to finish my dive but I was looking for one more scallop for dinner and I saw a blur swoosh right by me just in front of my face. My initial immediate reaction was SHARK! But it was just a damn seal playing with me. I literally was screaming underwater for a couple of seconds. Funny thing is I have over 25 logged open water dives, some at night, mostly around Catalina and I never saw a shark.

14. From [DrWho1970](#):

I was doing a boat dive and came up to find 20-foot swells. We just had to chill for a while down under until the boat would calm down and we could actually grab the ladder without getting smashed. I remember seeing the ladder going up and down 6-8 feet at a time. I finally grabbed the rope and climbed up as fast as I could. I hung on to the ladder and the boat crew grabbed my BCD and hauled me out of the water and onto the swim step. Half the divers puked on the way back into port. That was the roughest conditions that I have ever been diving in.

15. From [FirekeeperBlysse](#):

It was one of the most terrifying moments of my life. I was on a beach dive with my parents, having swum from the beach out to a small reef and then descending. It was only a few minutes after getting down to the reef that something started going on with my parents. My mother was agitated and clutching her chest. We surfaced and she started spitting up dark liquid and struggling to breathe.

Fortunately, it was a busy beach and after we inflated an emergency buoy, lifeguards rushed out and carried her back to the shore where an ambulance waited. It turned out she'd had swimmers edema induced by the greater pressure. Things turned out fine, but having a medical emergency underwater in the ocean is a special level of scary.

16. From [OneDumbDiver](#):

I grew up in Oz. When I was 15, I took the family boat out and dove the reef myself to clear my head (mistake number 1). I was down at a depth of about 28 metres (90 feet) when I was only rated for 60 feet (mistake number 2).

Whilst diving, I spotted a 3.5m Mako shark coming right at me. For those who are unaware, Makos are basically the cheetahs of the ocean, and they only have 2 speeds: Curious (harmless) and Lunch (very much harmful). This guy was in lunch mode.

So I hovered, as I had been trained to do, as there would be no way for me to outmaneuver it or escape it. Nowadays, we dive with Shark Shields, which emit electronic pulses that freak the sharks out and keep them away, but back then, what we used was essentially a chainmail sleeve. The idea being that sharks hate the taste of metal, so if you give it your arm, it'll bite down, decide you're gross, and move along.

So I wait, and it comes, and I do a perfect move to give the beastie my arm. Just before the crunch, however, it occurred to me that I had left my sleeve on my bed (mistake number 3). I had my kelp knife drawn, and stabbed it right as it bit me. It swam off, and I was alive, however, now I had a series of problems:

I had HUGE open gashing wounds on my arm from the bite in open water, and was trailing blood everywhere

Once the shock wore off, you realize that you're in SALT water and salt and open wounds don't feel good

In a panic, I dropped my weight belt and shot up to the surface without any sort of waiting period (hello bends - mistake number 4)

Because I hadn't been paying attention to the currents, I was approximately a quarter-mile downstream of my boat, which means I had to swim up to it (mistake number 5)

When I got to the boat, I really started to wish I had done as my da had said and had the comms fixed (mistake 6) or that I had upgraded the first aid kit like I had been threatening to do (mistake 7).

So I end up racing back to shore with nothing more than a tourniquet to staunch the bleeding. Long story short, my series of unfortunate self-inflicted events earned me 172 stitches, boatloads of physical therapy because the shark had actually bitten down on my tricep and detached it, and easily identifiable scars on one of my arms for the rest of my life.

Oh, and I lost my deceased grandfather's favorite kelp knife that he had left me.

17. From [clethusancta](#):

I wear heavy prescription lenses and can't wear contact lenses. Halfway through a week-long live aboard dive trip, someone dropped a tank on my prescription mask and shattered it. I usually had a second set with me, but could not find them and only brought one, because hey, nothing had ever happened before.

I am functionally blind without corrective lenses; I can see colors and that's about it, starting about five inches from my face. I was devastated but decided to go diving anyway, with my husband as my seeing-eye diver. I could see my gauges, so I felt reasonably safe.

It was among the most amazing three days of diving I've ever had. I saw the colors, shapes, and movement. Without being focused on the details, I actually took many of the best underwater photos I'd ever taken. I wasn't worried about focusing on a particular coral or fish; I was looking at the larger color patterns.

So it didn't turn out to be the disaster I'd thought it was.

18. From [Wit-wat-4](#):

Honestly the things that really scare me, makes my heart run fast etc are two:

1. If my air consumption looks funky suggesting a leak or the current is suddenly fast - basically anything that COULD lead to a life-threatening issue due to running out of air. When you're deep, you can't just fly back up and be fine...
2. Hurting reefs. Like honestly if my hand brushes against one (even dead) or gets super close so the dust unsettles because of the current or something I feel so, so, so guilty.

19. From [richqb](#):

Only thing that really scares me is lung expansion injuries. So the one time I was freaked out was swimming near a wreck at about 100ft. I lost perspective (and buoyancy control) and suddenly realized I had surfaced about 40ft in 30s or less. Visions of the bends and a popped lung instantly came to mind and dropped a ton of air from my BC to get back to depth in a hurry. Got a massive squeeze from it in my ears, but it gave me a chance to calm the fuck down and get a better sense of where I was and reestablish buoyancy control.

Bottom line - the scariest things that can happen while driving is the sh*t you can do to yourself.

20. From [BaconReceptacle](#):

I was diving in the early 90s off the coast of Florida. I had been using a spearfish ineffectually for a few minutes when I heard a strange grinding noise to my right. I turned my head to see an enormous set of barracuda jaws grinding just inches from my face. I still recall the fish's eye rotating around to check me out as if considering it should take a bite or not.

Diving is a dangerous sport and it's important to remind ourselves of the safety limits and to always dive with care and caution.

Recently reported to the NZUA is an incident involving PADI Rescue Diver with over 200 logged dives diving for scallops in Kawau Bay supported by a Powerdive air-supply unit.

The Powerdive in question is battery-operated surface-supply unit; no official qualifications are required to use it.

The affected diver reports a bottom time of less than one-hour, collecting scallops in approximately 9m of water. Over this period, the diver reports surfacing four-times.

He was under weighted, with only a 1kg lead weight in his pocket meaning controlling buoyancy was difficult.

15-minutes after the final ascent the diver noticed visual impairment. His spouse called 111 and the Westpac rescue helicopter was dispatched.

The diver lost consciousness in transit to Auckland Hospital, eventually being transferred to the hyperbaric unit at Christchurch Hospital for decompression sickness treatment.

Surprised by the severity of his symptoms, the medical team hypothesised the cumulative effect of multiple ascents in a short time, fatigue from carrying a heavy bag of scallops, and the last ascent possibly more rapid than normal as contributing factors to the onset decompression sickness but are still uncertain of the cause.

Thankfully, the diver is on his way to making a full recovery, and we are all grateful for the help of the excellent medical care provided by New Zealand's specialist hyperbaric teams and the Coastguard team from Hibiscus Rescue 1.

For the diver, returning to normality will take time. For all of us, the incident serves as a reminder to always be safe, even in relatively benign conditions and depths.

The NZUA thanks the diver for submitting the incident to us via the [NZUA Dive Incident Reporting Form](#)

PERFORMANCE NZ Ltd Diver

John Haynes

72 Barrys Point Road, Takapuna
Auckland, New Zealand
Phone: 64-9-489-7782 Fax: 64-9-489-7783
Email: sales@performance-diver.co.nz
Website: www.performance-diver.co.nz

North Shore Scuba Centre



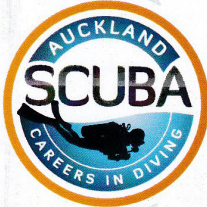
Air Technology Limited

HIGH PRESSURE COMPRESSOR SPECIALISTS

HASAN SOYKAN

Dive Shop Manager

5/20 Constellation Drive, Mairangi Bay, Auckland, New Zealand
P.O. Box 305 065, Triton Plaza, Auckland 0757, New Zealand
Tel: 09 478 6220, Fax: 09 478 6221, email: hasan@airtec.co.nz
website: www.divecompressors.co.nz



Thomas Marsters
Instructor

2/49 Arrenway Drive
Albany, Auckland
T: 09 478 2814 M: 021 135 8628
E: info@aucklandscuba.co.nz

www.aucklandscuba.co.nz



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mob (021) 233 8763
andrew@globaldive.net

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fx (09) 360 8321
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Mob 0274 784 900
Fax +64 9 521 3675
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Auckland, New Zealand 1745
davem@DiveNewZealand.com
www.DiveNewZealand.com
www.Dive-Pacific.com

Jackson Shields

6 Arrenway Drive, Albany, Auckland, New Zealand
P: (09) 479 4232 M: 021 2016525
E: jackson@wetter.com.z



MIKE SMITH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

mob 021 778 633
email - mike@oceanhunter.co.nz
100 Gaunt Street Westhaven Auckland
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Any articles from any club members are always welcomed