NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club Newsletter July 2021

Club Meeting: Wed 14th 2021 - Club Rooms : <u>7:00pm</u> Guest speaker: DVD – Attack!

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



Club's Mail Address: 14 Gails Drive Okura RD 2 Albany Club Contacts Phone numbers & emails Committee listing inside

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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:- A Niue Humpback by Denis (yes they were that close).

What's on our coming agenda?

14th July – Wednesday – 7.00pm - Dive Club Meeting – Club Rooms – Northcote Road Extension – DVD – Attack! – Ian Gordon – aka Shark Gordon

31st July – Saturday - Movie Night and Roast Dinner – Ryder's of Avondale - 177 Riverdale Road, Avondale – 5.30pm onwards – (*formerly Westwind Theatre*) \$35pp includes dinner, ice cream and movie (dinner around 7pm). BYO drinks and nibbles– contact Allan Dixon to book 09 2969182 or 021 994 593 email <u>allanandjilldixon@xtra.co.nz</u>

As a Club we have been enjoying this evening for around 25 years (Tom would know exactly), but we stopped going for a year or so through lack of numbers, get in early to book your place.

Dive Trips Available

You will need to contact the shops

Upcoming Trips with Performance Dive NZ you may be interested in 2021 - Ph. 489 7782

Contact shop directly to see what is available. Trips available have been limited due to Covid/weather/numbers etc.

Upcoming Trips with Global Dive you may be interested in 2021 - Ph. 920 5200.

Sat 10th July – Poor Knights Islands day trip w/Yukon 2 dives

Sat 17th- Sun 18th July – Bay of Islands Weekend trip

Sat 17th July – Poor Knights Islands Ladies day

Sat 26th – Sun 27th July – Anemone Spawning Bay of Islands 4 dives

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 <u>MUST</u> 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 financial members will be charged an extra \$10 on trips.

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

Memberships are overdue for 31 members

C'mon people if you want the club to survive 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

Scuba Pickup Lines That Never Work and One That Does



Megan Denny Updated by <u>Sarah Wormald</u> on May 14, 2021

Finding the mermaid or merman of your dreams can be tough. Until there's a Tinder for divers, here are a few pickup lines you can use to attract a mate.

We hope that they bring you some success but please note that PADI is not liable for any broken masks, black eyes, or other damage incurred by using these terrible, terrible pickup lines.

Marine Life

- Can I be the clownfish to your anemone?
- If you lived underwater, you'd be an angelfish.
- Are you an octopus? Because you octopi my thoughts.

Body Parts

- Are your legs tired? You've been swimming through my mind all night.
- Your eyes are like the ocean and I'm lost at sea.
- *Yarrr*, that's the finest booty I've ever seen.



Safety First

- You better stay away from the compressor room. You're so hot you're on fire!
- Would you like to see my special buddy breathing technique?
- I need emergency oxygen, because you just took my breath away.

- Can you navigate on this dive? I keep getting lost in your eyes.
- Excuse me, there's no smoking on this dive boat. I'm not smoking. Yes you are....

Equipment Inspection

- My dive watch is broken, can I have a little of your time?
- I have a dive knife, but what I really need is a spoon.
- You can always count on the divemaster to make sure you're turned on.
- Care to do an equipment inspection?

Lovesick

- I'm not narced, I'm just intoxicated by your presence.
- I'm either bent or in love. When I see you I feel tingly.

Gender-specific

- You know what they say about guys with big fins...
- Is your dad named Triton, because you look like a mermaid.
- You must be Nemo, because I have searched the ocean for you.

Misc

- Are you a member of the dive crew? You've turned my heart into knots.
- Want to join the 10 meter/30 feet club?
- I wish I could be your PADI card so we could always go diving together.

The pickup line that might actually work: **Do you need a dive buddy?**

Best Places for Whale Watching and Swimming

Guest Blogger 29 May, 2021

Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are among the most beautiful and friendly whales on our planet. There are many places to encounter these gentle giants, and the opportunity to swim with them is quite common.

Their scientific name, "*Megaptera*", refers to their large pectoral fins, which are in fact the largest limbs of any creature in nature. They were first given the second part of their name in New England. One of the most impressive features of humpback whales is that they "sing" underwater, emitting sounds that are thought to serve as communication with other individuals. It's now understood that by making these noises, the whales are trying to find a mate for reproduction or mark their territory.

Humpback whales are migratory animals. During the polar summer, they feed on plankton and small fish, but when the temperatures begin to decrease, they move to tropical seas to mate and breed.

Humpback whales are the only baleen whales that jump completely out of the water (breaching). They also show a repertoire of at least 15 different surface behaviours, giving them the title of the most acrobatic whale.





THE BEST PLACES FOR WHALE WATCHING

The following are the world's best places to watch humpback whales in their natural habitat.

SAGUENAY – ST. LAWRENCE MARINE PARK, QUÉBEC

This marine park was created to protect and support the more than 1,600 marine species living there, including a resident population of beluga whales. There are 13 species of whales that visit the Marine Park in order to feed and build their energy reserves for the long migrations ahead. Excursions can be made using big vessels, small rubber boats or even kayaks. As always, it's important to maintain the required distance (650 feet [200 meters] from humpback whales) in order to avoid disturbing them.

Best Time: June to September

REYKJAVÍK AND HÚSAVÍK, ICELAND

Whale watching tours start every day (weather permitting) at 9:00, 13:00 and 17:00. The excursions take approximately 3 to 3.5 hours. During this time operators look for a variety of whales, from minke and humpback whales to white-beaked dolphins, orcas and harbor porpoises. Tours run all year round, but the high season is between May and August.

Best Time: May to August

BAJA CALIFORNIA SUR, MEXICO

The <u>Sea of Cortez</u> is one of the most beautiful seas in the world. In fact, it's known as the aquarium of Mexico because of the large biodiversity found within its confines. Between December and April, whales gather here to give birth and breed. Local guides will accompany you on small boats, but you only need to travel a few hundred meters from the coast to be joined by many whales. This creates an unforgettable, half-day whale tour.

Best Time: January to March

BAHIA DE BANDERAS, MEXICO

The third largest bay in <u>Mexico</u>, Bahia de Banderas is surrounded by beautiful mountains known as the Sierra Madre del Sur. It provides the perfect habitat for different marine mammals, and humpback whales use these tropical waters from December to April to mate and breed. Whales can be seen breaching from shore, but to have the best experience, just hop on a small boat with a marine biologist on board. You'll be able to get a lot closer to the whales, an experience you'll never forget.

Best Time: January to March

PACIFIC COAST, COLOMBIA

The Pacific coast of Colombia is an ideal place to spot humpback whales, because both the southern and northern population visit these tropical waters where they give birth and breed. Whales can be seen right from the beach or local guides will bring you closer using small boats. We suggest looking for them in Nuquí, Bahia Malaga, Buenaventura, Tumaco and Gorgona National Natural Park.

Best Time: June to October

HERMANUS, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Although there is not a best time for whale watching, tours start here in the morning and last two hours on average. In <u>South Africa</u>, boats are allowed to approach the whales up to 165 feet (50 meters). Then the cetacean can decide to get close to the boat or disappear into the deep sea. A local expert guide will explain the various behaviors displayed by the whales in order to help you appreciate every movement of these marine giants.

Best Time: August to November

KAIKOURA, SOUTH ISLAND, NEW ZEALAND

Kaikoura is a town on the east coast of the South Island of <u>New Zealand</u>, a fascinating land where the mountains meet the sea. Tours last about 3 hours and use modern catamarans equipped with engines that minimize underwater noise. The most common species found near Kaikoura is the sperm whale as well as groups of dolphins, but humpback whales can be seen during their migration.

Best Time: June to July

DISKO BAY, GREENLAND

The cold waters of Greenland are home to 15 species of whales, including narwhals, beluga and bowhead whales. You can spot these during the winter, but in the summer, humpback whales, minke whales and fin whales are most commonly seen. Whale watching trips generally last four hours, and the captains of the boats are always in touch with local fishermen who help them to find the whales.

Best Time: June to August

MAUI, HAWAII

Humpback whales start to arrive in these crystal clear waters in December, but peak numbers occur in mid-January. You can see them right from the beach, a few miles away, but of course we recommend participating in an excursion with experts. In the span of a couple of hours, you'll be able to approach these whales as close as 100 yards (90 meters) legally. Preferred tours depart in the morning, because at this time, it is less windy. In Maui, it's possible to go whale watching by boat, kayak, outrigger canoe or stand-up paddleboard.

Best Time: Mid-January to Early April

MARINO BALLENA NATIONAL PARK, COSTA RICA

Humpback whales are seen in two seasons: whales from the Northern Hemisphere are seen from December to March while those from the Southern Hemisphere are seen from early July to late October. Tours in the area take 4 hours. It's also recommended to visit the Marino Ballena National Park, Isla Ballena (Whale Island), Las Rocas Tres Hermanas (Three Sisters Rocks), Cavernas Ventanas (Windows Caves) and the Tómbolo of Punta Uvita, giving you the opportunity to see dolphins and a seabird sanctuary.

Best Time: August to October

GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA

Tours from Glacier Bay are organized twice a day, in the morning and early afternoon. They last about 3-4 hours. Humpback whales arrive from <u>the warmer waters of Hawaii</u>, where they spent several months without eating. However, Alaska's cold waters are rich in food, and these whales spend their time here accumulating fat for their next migration.

Best Time: June to Early September

HERVEY BAY, AUSTRALIA

Humpback whales stop annually in these <u>Australian waters</u>, because Hervey Bay is along their migration route to Antarctica. Here they can grow their young in the absence of predators. There are many boats offering whale watching tours, which last an average of four hours. As a special treat, the vessels are often equipped with a hydrophone for listening to the songs of whales.

Best Time: Mid-July to October

WILHELMINA BAY, ANTARCTIC PENINSULA

Wilhelmina Bay is 15 miles (24 kilometers) long. Its very cold waters are rich in krill, the microscopic crustacean highly appreciated by the whales, who come here a few months each year to accumulate fat. Whale watching tours utilize rubber boats. It's possible to spot humpback whales, minke whales, killer whales, leopard seals and other marine animals.

Best Time: Mid-February to March



THE BEST PLACES FOR SWIMMING WITH HUMPBACK WHALES

TONGA, POLYNESIA (ALSO NIUE – see cover photo).

The humpback whale tour includes 6 days on this marvellous Polynesian island. Every day starts in the morning around 9 am, looking for humpback whales in their breeding and nursery areas. A naturalist will assess whether you can swim with these amazing cetaceans, and to avoid disturbing them, there will be a maximum of 4 guests plus a local guide in the water at a time. The boats return to Tonga in the early afternoon.

Nuie is daily trips out in small inflatables with very clear water. (Been there twice, editor)

Best Time: End of August to Early October

SILVER BANK, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Silver Bank is a submerged bank in the Atlantic Ocean which attracts a very large number of humpback whales. It is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 whales visit the area to give birth and breed. The only way to enjoy the place and these cetaceans is to spend a week on a liveaboard vessel and to use small rubber boats to get close to the whales. Silver Bank is one of the few places in the world where it is possible to snorkel with these whales. It will be an unforgettable experience.

Best Time: January to April

RÉUNION ISLAND

Humpback whales migrate to these waters to give birth and reproduce then return to Antarctica. In addition to observing them from the boat, you are allowed to swim with the whales where you can take amazing photos and videos. The code of conduct states that the maximum number of tourists that can enter the water at one time is 4 in order to avoid disturbing the whales. Furthermore, the excursion must be guided by experts.

Best Time: Mid-August to Mid-September

THE BEST PLACES FOR SCUBA DIVING WITH WHALES

Diving is generally not allowed with whales as the bubbles produced can be interpreted by these cetaceans as a sign of aggression or danger. They can emit bubbles as well from their blowhole. This regulation also serves to limit the disturbance of the whales in their nursing areas.

CODE OF CONDUCT

We always recommend following the <u>code of</u> <u>conduct</u> while enjoying humpback whale encounters. It's the best way to respect these

gentle giants. We suggest verifying the company that provides the whale tours is registered and has a permit to do so. It's best to use eco-friendly companies. This will insure you have the best possible experience knowing that the whales and environment are respected.



COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT HUMPBACK WHALES

Curious to learn more about humpback whales? Here are the answers to the most commonly asked questions about these gentle giants.

HOW BIG IS A HUMPBACK WHALE?

Humpback whales have a variable body length between 48 and 62.5 feet (14.6 and 19 meters).

HOW MUCH DO HUMPBACK WHALES WEIGH?

They can reach a maximum weight of 40 tons (36,000kg). The females are usually heavier than the males.

HOW LONG IS THE GESTATION PERIOD OF HUMPBACK WHALES?

It lasts between 10 and 12 months.

HOW MUCH DOES A BABY HUMPBACK WHALE WEIGH AT BIRTH?

At birth, calves are between 10 and 15 feet (3 and 4.5 meters) long and weigh about 1.5 tons (1,360kg). This is one third of the length of the mother's body or the same length as one of her flippers.

HOW LONG DO HUMPBACK WHALES LIVE?

Their lifespan is around 50 to 80 years.

WHAT DO HUMPBACK WHALES EAT?

These whales can eat up to 2 tons (1800kg) of plankton and small fish (like herring) per day.

HOW OFTEN DO HUMPBACK WHALES NEED TO EAT?

Normally whales feed in abundance in the cold waters near the poles. Their feeding method is very impressive, called "net bubbling." Using this technique, different whales create a bubble net to entrap fish inside and then come up with their mouths wide open. During winter, when they reach warm tropical waters for the mating period, humpback whales generally do not feed. They survive thanks to the fat accumulated during their stay in cold waters.

HOW MANY HUMPBACK WHALES ARE LEFT IN THE WORLD TODAY?

Actually, there are more than 60,000 humpback whales currently living in our oceans.

ARE HUMPBACK WHALES AN ENDANGERED SPECIES?

No, their status is "LC" (Least Concern), and their population is increasing.

HOW FAST CAN HUMPBACK WHALES SWIM?

Usually humpback whales swim 3 to 9 miles per hour (4.8 to 14 kilometers per hour), but if danger is present, they can swim up to 16.5 miles per hour (26.5 kilometers per hour).

WHAT SOUNDS DO HUMPBACK WHALES PRODUCE? Only males sing; however females can also communicate by sound. For example, communication between a mother and her calf is very strong. They can recognize each other by sound.



WHERE CAN YOU FIND HUMPBACK WHALES?

Humpback whales inhabit all the oceans.



CREDITS

This article was written by Mario Passoni, a marine biologist involved in several projects concerning ocean conservation and education. Special thanks to Wayne Sentman from the <u>Oceanic Society</u> and Thalia Martinez.

Editor: An interesting concept I received whilst producing the newsletter.

Kia Ora potential Skipper

Last year we sent out a survey to see what Kiwis wanted if a boat sharing service launched in NZ. Most of you chose the Haines Hunter boats as the best option for exploring the Hauraki Gulf and picked Westhaven as the best Marina to operate from. The exciting news is that Skipperi is now in NZ!! We want to say a massive thank you for participating in this survey, as it got us the answers which helped us get to where we are today. We currently have five Haines Hunter SF545 boats at Westhaven Marina, with the plan to get to 15 by the end of the year. We also plan to expand to other locations around Auckland and NZ. We invite you to check out our service online <u>www.skipperi.nz/fleet</u>, or on our social media channels <u>www.facebook.com/skipperinz</u>, <u>www.instagram.com/skipperi.nz/</u>

If you have any questions about the service or are interested in subscribing, feel free to contact us.

Kind regards

Jessica Webster Customer Service and Marketing M: +6427 523 1996 E: jessica@skipperi.nz S & I P P E R I www.skipperi.nz

Here's an interesting web site to explore

Explore the ocean with Dr. Robert Ballard and the Corps of Exploration - https://nautiluslive.org/

Ocean Exploration Trust and the *Nautilus* Exploration Program seek out new discoveries in geology, biology, and archaeology while conducting scientific exploration of the seafloor. Our expeditions launch aboard Exploration Vessel *Nautilus* — a 68-meter research ship equipped with live-streaming underwater vehicles for scientists, students, and the public to explore the deep sea from anywhere in the world. We embed educators and interns in our expeditions who share their hands-on experiences via ship-to-shore connections with the next generation. Even while we are not at sea, explorers can dive into *Nautilus* Live to learn more about our expeditions, find educational resources, and marvel at new encounters.

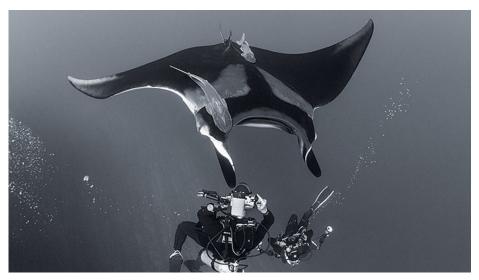
Practice What You Preach

By Gary Rose, M.D., FACS with photo by Stephen Frink

My trip to the Revillagigedo Archipelago was everything that I had hoped for — a beautiful liveaboard and several dives every day at all the famous sites. It was a wide-angle photographer's dream, with appearances by sharks, manta rays, dolphins and too many fish species to count. I never expected to find myself upside down with my legs floating above me, gripping a tiny pinch of volcanic rock and desperately trying to stay on the bottom, with my life in real danger.

A diver for more than 46 years and an open-water instructor since 2014, I have logged thousands of dives in many different conditions and am active and maintain a vigorous exercise routine. I frequently dive with a large underwater housing with two strobes and am comfortable using my equipment like a big sail, changing its angle and position to enable me to effortlessly drift with the current.

At Revillagigedo, however, the strong and persistent currents made my camera setup act as additional resistance when I needed to kick into the flow. To decrease my underwater profile and reduce drag, I decided to carry just under 1 kg of weight instead of my usual nearly 3kg so I would not have to inflate my buoyancy compensator. Before the next dive I noticed that the dive operators had given me an aluminium tank rather than the steel one I had been using all week. To compensate for the lighter tank, I was about to add back the weight that I had removed but was distracted when another diver needed my help with his tank.



A few minutes later I back-rolled off the dive tender, forgetting to add back the weight. As I cleared my bubbles, I intended to head straight down as usual, but I couldn't descend at all. I shifted to a freediving entry, kicking excessively hard and pulling with my free arm. When I finally got to 9 metres, I didn't feel any more pull to the surface and thought all would be well.

Twenty minutes later, I was kicking into the current at 22 metres when I felt a gentle and constant upward tug, which was exacerbated by the upwelling current. My legs began to rise a little, and I realised what was happening: The extra work had increased my air consumption, and I remembered that I hadn't replaced my weights. I always teach my students that decreasing air in an aluminium tank causes a linear increase in buoyancy, and now I had forgotten that simple lesson.

The upward pull was getting intense, and I couldn't find any rocks or chunks of coral to pick up from the volcanic bottom for extra weight. My dive buddy wasn't paying attention to what was happening to me and was too far away for me to risk the swim. Before the current pulled me toward the surface, I was able to grab a tiny ridge of an old lava flow and hang on for dear life.

The pre-dive safety check is of utmost importance to help avoid a dive accident.

I was thinking about every emergency scenario for this situation when the dive master showed up at my side. He quickly understood my communication and motioned for me to stay put. My search for extra weight had left me with only 35 bar in my tank, so I tried to decrease my breathing and slow my heart rate, hoping to reduce my air consumption. The powerful upwelling current was forcing my legs straight up, and my fingers, acting as a fulcrum, were tiring from my death grip on the tiny ridge.

I was contemplating how forcefully I would need to exhale on an uncontrolled free ascent and wondering if I could make it to the surface. My mind was racing to think of any other possible solutions. The dive master was gone for what seemed like an eternity but was probably only a few minutes. I was down to 20 bar when he returned carrying a huge piece of volcanic pumice. Despite the size, it seemed to weigh only around 3 or 3.5 kilograms — just enough to let me make a controlled ascent. I started slowly ascending, hugging the pumice the entire way and during my safety stop. At the surface, I let it go and watched my lifesaver rock drift to the bottom. Intact and now safe, I climbed onto the dive tender.

To add insult to (almost) injury, I was on the liveaboard to teach a dive medicine course, which included a section on buoyancy control. That evening I added a mea culpa explanation of the incident to my usual lecture.

Where did things go wrong?

The two triggers for my incident were improper weighting and strong current, and the disabling agent was my loss of buoyancy control. I should have ended my dive when I had to work so hard to descend. My buddy and I should have been close enough to offer quick assistance, especially given the remote location. By remaining calm, communicating and working as a team with my alert dive master, we averted the next two steps: disabling injury and death.

All diving has risks. To mitigate them, we must always pay attention to the details. The pre-dive safety check is of utmost importance to help avoid a dive accident. The key elements are for each buddy to check the other's BCD, weights, releases and air, and then give a final check and decisive OK. I could have avoided the entire incident had I adhered to my pre-dive safety check and not gotten distracted, and I should have performed the safety check again before getting in the water. Staying calm and utilising our combined experience helped me and my dive master avert a disastrous outcome.

Thanks to DAN for bringing to our attention. Editor

<u>**Hi there</u>** (Sent to me by NZUA, Editor).</u>

Hope you are doing well. I am reaching out from Doc Edge because we have some documentaries that we believe you and your friends would love!

Valerie Taylor: Playing With Sharks

Sally Aitken | 2020 | 90' | Australia, New Zealand

The extraordinary life story of a fearless marine maverick whose passion for sharks knows no bounds – even when there should be. Watch trailer: <u>https://youtu.be/3C_DIgEXi50</u>

Buy tickets now: <u>https://festival.docedge.nz/film/valerie-taylor-playing-with-sharks/</u>







Venice Atienza | 2021 | 72' | Philippines

Before 12-year-old Reyboy leaves the isolated fishing village where he grew up, the precious fleeting moments of his childhood turn into memory.

Watch trailer: <u>https://youtu.be/Vk3qtUDLyu8</u>

Buy tickets now: https://festival.docedge.nz/film/last-days-at-sea/

Doc Edge Originals: Sea Within A Sea

Danech San | 2021 | 25' | Cambodia

A 35-year-old master diver investigates the factors that impact seahorse populations and conservation planning across Cambodia's coast.

Watch now: <u>https://festival.docedge.nz/film/sea-within-a-sea/</u> *free to watch

We would really appreciate it if you could help us publicise our online festival within New Zealand Underwater Association, and on your social media page. For more information, please visit - <u>https://festival.docedge.nz/</u>.

Hope you and your friends enjoy the movies!

Many thanks, Annabelle Wong - Intern +64 9 360 0329 - docedge.nz



Leo Ducker Award 2021

Congratulations to Maddison & Ebi of Aotearoa Lakes winning NZUA's Leo Ducker Award for services to diving.

A web site to check out: https://www.mantatrust.org/new-zealand

Stay Safe All - remember the rules & where you are in NZ, they vary.

PS: Anyone got a recent dive report/story to tell? Please forward to me. Denis



www.legasea.co.nz

Mount Wellington, Auckland

www.emr.org.nz

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