

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club Newsletter August 2021

Club Meeting: Wed 11th August 2021 - Club Rooms : **7:00pm**
Guest speaker: Social Night plus details inside

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



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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 Photo:– By Denis Scorpion fish in Tonga

What's on our coming agenda?

11th August – Wednesday – 7.00pm - Dive Club Meeting – Club Rooms – Northcote Road Extension – Mulled Wine & Marinated Chicken Wings - Social Night & we will try again - DVD – Attack! – Ian Gordon – aka Shark Gordon

21st August- Saturday – 10.00am – 2.00pm Clubrooms – EMR Training session.

4th September – Saturday – 7.00pm- Okura Barn Dance – Okura River Rd. \$10 entry plus a Plate, BYO drinks.

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 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 - financial members will be charged an extra \$10 on trips.**

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

Some memberships are still overdue

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

An Article that Trish found

Paradise on Motuihe Island; The Memories of Eileen Slark Interviewed by Peter Barron on 23 September 2013.

Eileen Slark was the wife on Tony Slark the last doctor on Motuihe and he was also a pioneer in diving medicine. Tony became the first and only patron of the Motuihe Trust. Cindy was six months old when we went to Motuihe. That was in October of 1957. We went to Motuihe on the car ferry. We didn't have a car to take down, but from memory that's what we went on. I suppose it was because we had all our belongings with us etcetera.

We arrived at this very basic little house but it was very near the beach and it had everything we needed. We were young and we just loved it. We settled in and I can't say that Tony was overworked there. He had morning surgery and dealt with all that he had to, and while he was there he did the Naval diving course. That's when he qualified as a diver and just started to go out with some of the New Zealand underwater people, at that stage never thinking that it would become a main interest at all. He passed his diving test, and that was done in summer. It wasn't too bad apart from diving in the Naval dockyard where he said you could hold your hand up and not see it. But it was all good practice.

I used to make bread on the island because the only bread we could get were these huge loaves of Naval cut bread and I thought "I can do better than that". So I was the bread maker at that stage but Tony took over later on. The farmer - Roy Ward – used to come down at weekends. He had a cow and he brought a gin bottle full of cream. All you had to do was whisk it up. So at weekends we had waffles for breakfast. In summer we sometimes had all our meals outside because Roy Ward and Tony built a barbeque and Tony started his vegetable garden. We had a play pen for Cindy and a little paddle pool and it just was paradise. The brewing was always done in the wash room, in what used to be the old copper. We cleaned it up and the home brew was all we drank on the island. The only person who wouldn't drink it was Roy. We bought a bottle of whisky for him which we could ill afford at that time. We had a twin basin and a wringer between to do the laundry in, and that was in the wash room too. That was for washing the bottles, and laundry and washing nappies and we had one of those Hill rotating clothes lines. So that's how our time joggled along.

Then I got pregnant again and we had to be off the island three weeks before the baby was due so I came to stay with some naval friends. Johnny was duly born and on the auspicious day when we went home, Tony having deposited me home went off racing with Roy Ward around the island. It was a beautiful summer's day and that's how life started on the island with two children. I remember distinctly Johnny getting chicken pox and Cindy getting it too, and going down to the beach thinking 'Keep away from all the other children'. We sat under the pohutukawa trees and the children would paddle in the water and played and slept under the tree and we'd go home in the evening and it was quite a good way to have chicken pox. Tony had to have his garden in straight

rows. There was no way a carrot was allowed to grow in the wrong place. The garden was fenced off and the rabbits couldn't get in but it was the pigs over in the back of the garden that we were more worried about. I don't know if the fence went down deep enough but we didn't have a rabbit problem. We latterly had a pig problem because the pigs got into the garden and that was the end of our garden.

This was a wonderful way to live. We had days in summer – day after day – when you got up in your swimming costume and sun hat, and you had waffles and cream for breakfast, and you a salad from the garden for lunch and Roy and Tony had built this barbeque so we had steak and salad for the evening meal. all outside. It was just an amazing life. We'd pick up cones and logs for the fire place. I don't think we ever had coal; we just burned what we picked up. The house boys would come in the mornings sometimes. They were boys in training who came to do jobs for you, two or three mornings a week. They would cut up kindling and perhaps bring in the logs for the fire. They were quite handy for outside jobs. I think Tony got them onto digging the garden and that sort of thing, They were boys of fifteen or sixteen and they were on the island for three months. That's why they had a doctor on the island because they'd had some case where – of course there weren't helicopters and things – and it was long way by boat for somebody who was really sick. I think it was appendicitis but I'm not completely sure. It hit the papers because they were our fine young men in training with no doctor on the island and no way of getting off quickly. So that's how having doctors on the island started. I think they were three or maybe four before us so it must have happened in the late forties or early fifties when the incident happened.

The children went to school on Motutapu. The morning boat took the children over to Islington Bay and the head master and the only teacher - his wife helped him - drove around and picked them up from the jetty. That meant he could keep his school open because they had to have about nine pupils. So there were about four or five from Motuihe all the time we were there. That was wonderful for them. The wife used to take sports and sewing for the girls, and he did all the rest of the teaching. The school was right on Home Bay so it was a beautiful situation. The diving medicine was really interesting because at that time New Zealanders were really diving too deeply. There were divers who went well down below 500 feet - I think they are not allowed to go deeper than 30 metres now - and quite a few of them got into trouble. You'd hear over the radio that they were transferring the diver to the chamber. They didn't have a helicopter at the time so they would transfer the diver by ambulance. One, who became a close friend of ours, dived at the Pinnacles at the Poor Knights. He dived too deep because it was a beautiful day and the water was so clear that it was quite off-putting. Our family was at Tutukaka and Tony was up at the Knights when he had this call to ask if he could come and see this sick diver. The sick diver had to get back from the Knights, which was a good hour and a half away, and the ambulance was waiting. The lady who ran the store did the radio telephone and phoned for the ambulance, then she phoned me to say Tony wasn't coming back today because he's going back with this sick diver. Tony came all the way down in the ambulance with him and got him into the chamber as quickly as they could, but our friend still got a bad bend from it and he never fully recovered.

It was Tony's era that made the rules and now there aren't nearly as many sick divers as there used to be. The chamber is used much more for wound healing and gas gangrene. The divers still come but the diving rules are very strict. It's interesting that the chamber has just moved from being the Naval chamber to being with the Waitemata District Health. Apparently it has only got about another three years of use left because of metal fatigue. The plan is to move it from the Navy base where it still is, to North Shore Hospital. At the hand-over ceremony the chap Jonathon who was ICU Chief Doctor, and who is a diver, will be in charge of it. So what will happen in three years time will be very interesting to see.

Tony did fourteen years in general practice then went back into the Navy again. They wanted him to do the chamber again and they offered him quite a big promotion to come back. I remember him saying "What do you think I should do?" and my replying "I'm not going there, Tony. You've got to do it". He decided to go back to the Navy and I don't think he was ever sorry about it. He was made the Surgeon Captain, and then went on to work in Wellington as the Surgeon Commodore, but the best thing that happened is that he got some really good doctors into the Navy. The chamber is Tony's physical legacy and is named after him. I was pleased when I went to the ceremony to find that it is still called the Slark Decompression Chamber. What will happen when the new one is built I don't know but it is a facility that we need to keep. There's one at Auckland Hospital and there's one at Christchurch but there aren't a lot of them. I think New Zealand was one of the first countries to do that depth of diving and gain that depth of experience so that now there is so much more knowledge. Eileen Slark

Tips for Calming a Panicked Scuba Diver

When dealing with someone who is in full panic mode underwater, you've got to stay calm, cool and collected

By [Patricia Wuest](#) July 31, 2018



When you're attempting to help a panicked scuba diver, remember the three Cs: calm, cool and collected.

Panic is a sudden, overwhelming feeling of fear, and full-blown panic underwater can be extremely dangerous to not only the panicking diver but also to his or her buddy or anyone attempting to assist. Here are the steps that will help you assist a panicking scuba diver and have a successful outcome.

1) Stay calm. It doesn't help the situation if you also begin to panic. Panic can lead to poor decision-making, such as bolting to the surface. Remember the mantra: Stop, Breathe, Think, Act. Your attitude is key because when rescuing a diver in trouble your calm manner will help calm him or her.

2) Make eye contact. Communicate as best you can that you are there to help them; often, making eye contact is enough to help calm a panicked diver.

3) Assess the situation. Is the diver panicking for a real emergency, such as an out-of-air situation? Or is it for some other reason that can be easily rectified, like helping them get control of their buoyancy? Use the "OK" signal as a question, so that he or she can communicate what's wrong. Use your hand as a "stop sign" to encourage them to remain calm. If this succeeds, they should be able to signal to you what the problem is.

4) Move deliberately and as quickly as possible if the diver is still in panic mode. As long as the diver isn't attempting to rip your regulator out of your mouth, approach the diver and then reach out with your left hand to grasp their right arm at the bicep. If they are in an out-of-air emergency, you can now offer your octo reg with your right hand. If they need help with an equipment problem, assist them in addressing the issue. These problems can range from entanglement issues to a free-flowing reg. If it's an issue where the diver is struggling to maintain neutral buoyancy, release air from his or her BC.

5) Pause for a moment. Make sure the diver has regained his or her composure.

6) Avoid danger to yourself. If you are not able to help a panicked diver, you should release them, regain a safe ascent rate and deal with the issue when you arrive at the surface. "Sometimes, you do everything reasonably and appropriately, and you still do not have a happy ending," says PADI's technical development executive Karl Shreeves. "You did your best under the circumstances, and it's critical to have that perspective."

Take a [rescue course](#). When divers start to panic, there are telltale signs you will learn to recognize once you take this invaluable course. "Real rescues are ugly," says Rainbow Reef Dive Center's Career Development Director Kell Levendorf. "Recognizing the warning signs is the best method to proactively defuse a panic situation."

A bit of humour. A customer was bothering a waiter in a restaurant. First he asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked for it to be turned down because he was too cold, and so on for about half an hour. Surprisingly, the waiter obliged each time. A second customer asked 'Why not throw him out.' 'Oh, I don't care.' said the waiter smiling. 'we don't even have an air conditioner'.

Why Don't Electric Rays Electrocute Themselves?

In this edition of Ask a Marine Biologist, Dr. David Shiffman discusses the double-edged sword of using bioelectricity as a weapon. By [David Shiffman](#)
June 2, 2021



A lesser electric ray nestles in sand near Belize's Turneffe Atoll.

[Shutterstock.com/Ethan Daniels](#)

Question: Why don't electric rays electrocute themselves? – Francisco C, Chile

Answer: Science does not have a definitive answer to this inquiry, but experts tell me rays have some amazing adaptations that help them here!

First, let's back up and talk about what an electric ray is, how they generate electricity, and what they use it for!

There are [dozens of species of electric rays](#), sometimes called torpedo rays, which are found all over the world. Two of the best studied are the [Pacific electric ray](#) and the [lesser electric ray](#), which notably was once [incorrectly assessed as to be Critically Endangered](#).

Both have an [electricity-generating organ](#) capable of generating an electric discharge. This [electric pulse is generated via modified muscle cells](#) — your own muscles, in fact, generate a ton of bioelectricity in order to contract. It just usually isn't channelled into an external discharge! Rays can use the electrical pulses they generate either to stun prey (so they can eat it without a fight or chase) or to [startle away predators](#).

How strong an electric pulse is generated varies by species and by size of the individual, but, when it comes to how it affects people, the range has been [described](#) as “from moderately tingly to stunningly powerful.” Some claim that the ancient Greeks used this electric pulse to anesthetize patients, noting that their scientific name (*Narcine*) comes from the same Greek root word as “narcotic,” but the evidence behind this is not conclusive and the logistics seem at least a little bit questionable. The Pacific electric ray has been known to swim directly at divers if provoked, so, as always, try not to antagonize the wildlife!

Circling back to your original question: when electric rays discharge electricity into the water, how do they avoid getting shocked by it?

“While the ray itself is pretty well insulated from its own electric discharge, it may swamp out the ray's ability to detect the weak electric fields of their prey!” says Dr. Chris Lowe, director of the California State University, Long Beach shark lab and a professor of marine biology. “We don't really know for sure. But they can use it to electrocute their prey or to ward off predators! It's one of the few superheroes of the ‘flat sharks!’”

In other words, an electric discharge gives these rays a powerful offensive or defensive weapon, but using it (probably) temporarily “blinds” their own electric sense! And to avoid being shocked themselves, they have some biological insulation in place. These under-appreciated animals are truly fascinating—as long as they're not shocking you.

[Ask a Marine Biologist](#) is a monthly column where Dr. David Shiffman answers your questions about the underwater world. Topics are chosen from reader-submitted queries as well as data from common internet searches. If you have a question you'd like answered in a future Ask a Marine Biologist column, or if you have a question about the answer given in this column, email Shiffman at WhySharksMatter@gmail.com with subject line “Ask a marine biologist.” The views expressed in this article are those of David Shiffman,

ALERT DIVER



Dear Margaret,

Welcome to the first digital issue of *Alert Diver*, the official magazine of the Divers Alert Network (DAN). We are excited to bring *Alert Diver* back to the DAN World Region. *Alert Diver* will become a monthly member-only digital communication, where we share a selection of articles covering skills, safety, research, medicine, fitness, imaging and more!



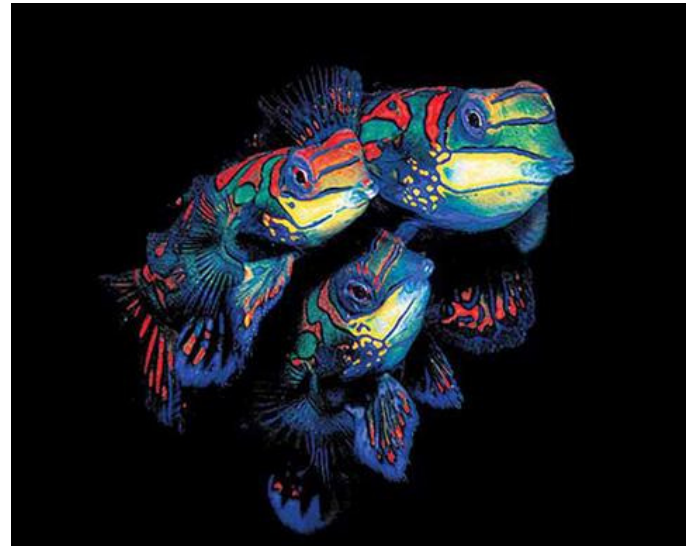
Skills in Action: Surviving Triple Dangers in the Maldives



Safety 101: Shallow-Water Arterial Gas Embolisms



Dive Slate: Forging a Blue Economy



Imaging: Michael Aw Feature



Gear: Hand Protection



Features: Roatan - An Insider's Guide



This is an organisation we should all consider joining especially if you travel overseas.

SURTEES[®]

BUILT TO FISH

Tairua Boat Show

The [Tairua Boat Show](#) is back this year and we are back on deck with a display of 6 boats with 3 of them up for grabs! So if you want to add a 610 Game Fisher, 575 Pro Fisher or a 495 Workmate to your family, make sure you come along and take it home! You will also have the chance to look at our latest addition to the fleet: the 800 Game Fisher.

We are looking forward to catching up with you guys for a fun weekend in one of the best holiday spots in the Coromandel. See you next weekend.

Have questions? Contact the sender on isabell@surteesboats.com

TAIRUA BOAT SHOW

AT THE TAIRUA MARINA 10AM - 5PM



13th, 14th & 15th AUGUST

BOATING, FISHING & DIVING DISPLAYS

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

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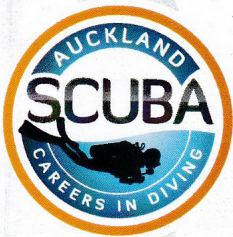
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