

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club Newsletter September 2021

No Club Meeting: Wed 8th September 2021 - Club Rooms Closed
Guest speaker: **Cancelled Covid 19 - Level 4**

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



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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:– Clear waters of Tonga By Denis

What's on our coming agenda?

13th October – Wednesday – 7.00pm - Dive Club Meeting – Club Rooms – Northcote Road Extension –

18th October - Saturday – 10.00am – 2.00pm Clubrooms – EMR Training session.

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.

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

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**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!
IF YOU SPOT ORCA**

**CALL
0800 FILM UW
IMMEDIATELY
0800 3456 89**

During August/ September we're filming orca for an international documentary. If you see any please call us straight away. Thanks! Steve Anthony

Are you an Underwater Photographer?

Whether you're a professional photographer, part-time GoPro user or recently earned your [PADI Digital Underwater Photography Specialty](#), you have a role to play in conserving our ocean's most iconic species.

The first step in effectively conserving marine wildlife is establishing a clear understanding of the state of each species. That is, the population size and trends, regional and global spread as well as what challenges they face.

As iconic but threatened marine species – like turtles, whale sharks and manta rays – live in the ocean, most studies rely on a small handful of scientists heading out on a boat to identify specific individuals and track them over distance and time. As any diver hoping to see a shark or other megafauna species will tell you, this can often

come down to pure luck, require patience and become expensive in no time. Not exactly ideal when the clock is ticking to get cracking with conservation measures.

Conveniently, many megafauna species such as mantas and whale sharks have natural spot patterns ('fingerprints') that don't change significantly over time and allow scientists to identify each individual using photographs. Still, the resources needed by scientific organizations to gather photographs quickly and at scale can be prohibitive. This is where [PADI Torchbearers](#) come in.

One of the best things about photographic identification, is that non-scientists can contribute to photo ID databases as well. Receiving photographs from diver and snorkeler 'citizen scientists' provides substantial additional volunteer manpower and vastly increases data volumes, allowing scientists and conservation organizations to learn more about each species in shorter time-frames. What does that mean? It means more conservation measures, faster.

Here's X marine megafauna photo ID databases who need your photos:

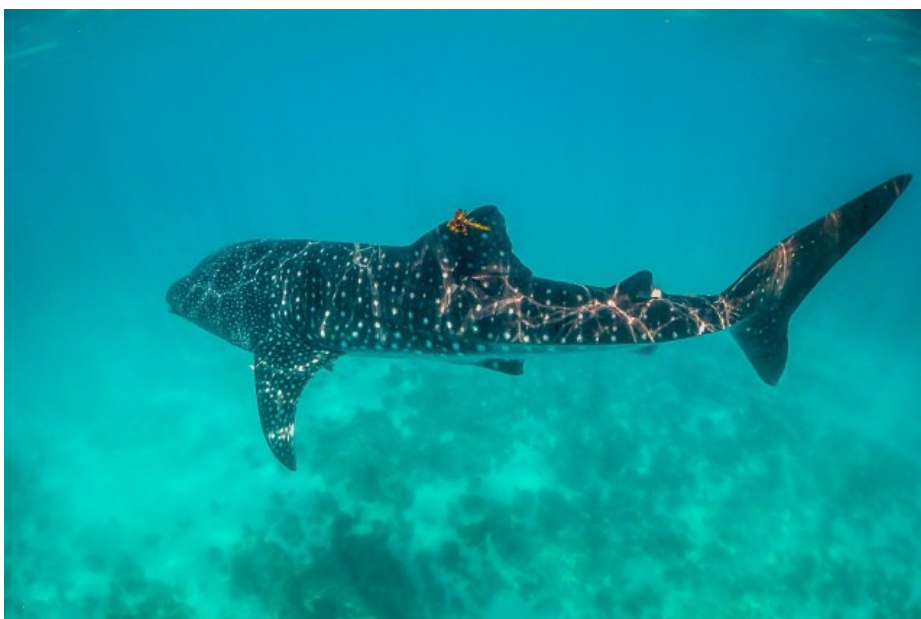
MantaMatcher



The Marine Megafauna Foundation launched [Manta Matcher](#) in 2012, the world's first automated online manta ray database, enabling them to produce estimates for monitored regional populations.

[Report Encounter](#)

Wildbook for Whalesharks



After the success of MantaMatcher, the MMF launched [The Wildbook for Whale Sharks](#) with over 35,000 sightings reported to date.

[Report Your Sightings](#)

Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines (LMVRI)



Calling all divers from or visiting the Philippines! The LMVRI would like to receive your [photos of turtles, whalesharks and manta rays](#). So far, divers and snorkelers have helped identify 1,272 endangered Green and Hawksbill Turtles across the Philippines.

[Share Your Photos](#)

ID the Manta



If you have seen a manta ray anywhere in the world, you can contribute directly to Manta Trust's global research and conservation efforts. Submit your images and some basic information about the sighting to the [ID the Manta database](#), and you'll receive feedback about the individual manta you encountered.

[Submit Your Images](#)

Marine & Freshwater Institute's Humpback Whale Catalogue



Focussed on Iceland, but requesting photographs of humpback whales from anywhere in the world, the [Marine and Freshwater Research Institute's database](#) dates back to 1980! If you have humpback whale photos, with information such as date and location of the sighting, please share them.

[Submit Your Photo](#)

PADI AWARE Foundation's Shark Photo ID Database



COMING SOON

To advance the [Blueprint for Ocean Action](#) and protect 20 vulnerable shark and ray species by 2030, [PADI AWARE Foundation](#) is developing a global citizen science program for divers to report shark sightings. Combining PADI Diver's passion for sharks with the [proven success](#) in the citizen science model used for the global [Dive against Debris program](#) (responsible for the [world's first scientific paper assessing seafloor debris](#)), we expect great things to come!

Do you know about any other Photo ID databases that need divers help? Share them with us on [social](#),

or email us at torchbearer@padi.com.

6 Tips for Editing Your Underwater Photos



[Sarah Wormald](#)

If you can't dive on lockdown, you can put the time to good use and relive your last dive trip by finally sorting through your images and doing some editing!



Although you might love that image of a blurry blob of a frogfish, it might not generate the same level of excitement with your family and friends. If you want to dazzle the land-lovers in your life and make sure that your images reflect the real deal, here's how to do it...

Delete, Delete, Delete

Okay, this might sound harsh but blurry sand, fish butts and shots that require squinting and imagination are not going to work. You're not likely to look at these shots again and they won't excite anyone. Delete them now and you'll save storage space and have less to edit later.

Do this in stages. Your first round will be easy, then go through what you've kept and be more judgmental. Think about focus and exposure, you can't fix an out of focus image, and although you can work with an underexposed image, anything that is over exposed is hard to tone down. Once you've done that, look at where you have multiple images of the same thing. Scrutinize them and keep the best one (maximum two), you don't need more than that.

Okay, now you've narrowed down what you have to work with, we can look at the editing options available and apply them to each of your images. Remember that the idea of editing is not to change the image but to enhance what you have.

Remove Backscatter

Backscatter is small particles in the water, in between your camera lens and the subject you are photographing. In your images, backscatter appears as white speckles and dots. Backscatter is almost impossible to avoid but it can be removed with the help of a spot correction tool.

Aim to remove the most obvious speckles but be careful when trying to remove any backscatter which is on top of your subject. Spot correction tools will replace the blemished area with a duplicate of another area in the photo of the same colour. This can work well on blue areas but not so well on parts of a critter.

When dealing with a lot of backscatter, ask yourself if it is worth while trying to remove it all, or just a little, or if it's better to move onto another image. Removing backscatter can be extremely time consuming!

Colour



Adding Colour to a Blue Image

This is one of the easiest things to change and it is often what makes the biggest difference. Images that appear “blued out” can often be saved assuming there is some element of red still in the image. Images appear blue because there was not enough light and the first colour that is lost with light loss is red. Find the temperature control and try increasing the temperature – this brings up the level of red already captured in the image. If the image is totally blue with no red tones, this will not work, and the image is going to be hard to save.

If, however, turning up the temperature makes the corals return to their normal colour – or close to it, you’ll see a huge improvement immediately.

You can also try adjusting the ‘tint’. Tint runs from green to red and needs to be adjusted very carefully. Unlike temperature which enhances existing red, tint adds in extra red which can quickly turn your blue background purple.

Saturation



Once you have corrected the colours in your image you may want to tone them up or down (make them stronger or dull them down). Saturation controls colour strength but make minor adjustments only to prevent the image from becoming so saturated it appears ‘fake’.

If all else fails, there’s black and white

If you can’t save the colours in an image, turn the saturation down to zero and remove all colour. This will result in a black and white image which can be equally attractive. Black and white images often benefit from some added ‘contrast too’.

Exposure, Shadows and Contrast

Contrast

If your image is lacking definition, try increasing the contrast – this makes the difference between light and dark areas in the image more profound.

Shadows & Exposure

For images that appear dark, use the shadow tool to lighten the shadows. This will lift the image without white-washing the entire image in the way that exposure does. The shadow setting lightens the dark patches, whereas the exposure setting will lighten the entire image universally. Try both until you achieve the desired effect.

Highlights



The highlight setting is the reverse of the shadow setting and will only affect the lightest and brightest patches in the image.

Clarity and Sharpness

It's not possible to make an out-of-focus image suddenly become in-focus but by using a combination of the clarity and sharpness tools you can improve the appearance a little. For in-focus images you can also enhance the 'crispness'. Adjustments need to be extremely minor as you will also increase the clarity and sharpness of any imperfections, most notably, backscatter. If your image begins to take on a grainy appearance you

have gone too far.

Blurry Backgrounds

Blurry backgrounds can disguise a multitude of sins, make the subject matter 'pop', and add a more professional feel to your images. Most editing software will have a blurring tool but they can take a little practice to get used to. Start gradually, go slowly and take your time!

Once you've finalized your favorite images save them and back them up on a hard drive and or to cloud storage – after all of your hard work you don't want to lose them!

Are you feeling inspired to get underwater again and take more photos? Prepare for your next dive by taking the [PADI Digital Underwater Photography Speciality course](#) online, right from the comfort of your own home!



Returning to the Water After a Break



[Laura Walton](#) 22 July, 2021

When you are a scuba diver returning to the water after a break:

You've not been diving in what feels like decades and you've just realised that you've put the BCD onto the cylinder backwards! You quickly turn it around and hope no one saw. Now, which way the regulators and gauges go again? This regulator looks different to the one you had last time – “am I doing this right?” – You feel stupid asking, but it is probably better to check after all. You smile enthusiastically, nervously wondering if you can still remember how to dive.

Okay! You've got your kit all set up and it's time to walk out to the dive site. You are excited but there is this wobbly feeling, everything just feels a bit weird. As you get into the water you realise that you are fumbling to find the inflate button. Finally, it's time to descend, “where's that regulator?” you remember to sweep behind you and eventually find it, but you worry that everyone is sick of waiting for you. You hit the deflate ... and you are still on the surface! Your buddy and the guide look up at you patiently as you gradually make your way down towards them.

This used to be easy, but now it feels odd and strangely vulnerable.

But, as you start to swim along, things start to fall into place. Each time you reach for your inflator hose you find it faster. The second time you clear your mask you remember to focus on breathing through your mouth (the first time resulting in some spluttering). By the end of the dive you are really starting to enjoy yourself again and the nerves have melted away. After a few more dives it's all coming back again.



Does this sound familiar? Look at all the things we need to know and do when we dive, from putting our equipment together, carrying out checks, finding clips to fasten and buttons to press ... These are motor skills that took time and effort to learn. The ability to perform these skills got laid down in [pathways of nerves](#) that run from your brain to your fingers and toes; and all the way back again. When we have a break from diving, these pathways are unused. Like tracks in a field the grass grows over them and it can be hard to find our way through when we return. But the pathways are there! By re-using the skills: we open them up again. Repetition and practice sends signals down the nerves and the connections strengthen again, which is why we get better and faster at the skills the more we do them.

There are many pathways you will need to revisit when you return for your first dive after a long break. There will be connections that must be made just to get into the water, for example being able to locate and press the deflate button. (You won't go very far if you can't do that!) You should also practice some basic skills that you need for the dive, like clearing your mask in case it fogs. Plus, getting the hang of buoyancy will be important.



But what about the hidden pathways?

There are things you would need to do if something went wrong. For example, practicing sharing air in case of loss of gas, or dropping your weight belt in case of failure to establish buoyancy on the surface. When was the last time you went down those tracks? If you needed to, would there be a clear route through, or would you be struggling to hack your way through the overgrowth in an emergency?

In the same way that tracks fade when they are not followed regularly, our skills atrophy when we do not practice. Look back through your training, are there any skills that you have not used? Often the most important skills are the ones we may never need to do for real, so we forget about them ... or tell ourselves we know how to do them. But if those skills have not been practiced, they will not be accessible. Why not take a wander down those overlooked pathways by refreshing skills and practicing scenarios with your instructor. Regularly re-discovering what you can do is all part of [your diving journey](#).



It's a good idea for divers who haven't been in the water for a significant period and are thinking about returning to enroll in a scuba refresher. There is also an offline, tablet-based program called [ReActivate](#) which covers all the knowledge you learned during your [Open Water Diver course](#) and allows you to refresh your knowledge after being out of the water for a while. The program should get you back to feeling comfortable in the underwater world in less than a day. Check it out and get ready to start diving again.

Bored with lock down guys?

For the guys in the club if you're that bored, go on line & look up 'The Royal International Air Show – Virtual Air Tattoo 2021', It'll keep you occupied for hours.

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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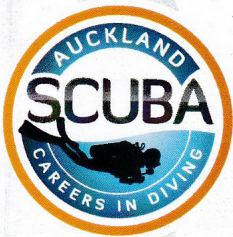
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