

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club

Newsletter October 2022

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wednesday 12th October 2022

Speaker - Laurie Wright – QLD – Northern Coral Seas

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



**Club's Mail Address
14 Gails Place
Okura
RD3 Albany**



**Club Contacts Inside
Website As Above**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2022/2023

President/Editor	Denis Adams	0278 970 922	da.triden@gmail.com
Vice-President	Chris Nipper	021 991 732	akidna27@gmail.com
Past-President	Peter Howard	0225 194 046	pete.howard@xtra.co.nz
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
All Trips Organiser	Margaret Howard	0274 839 839	marg.howard@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Dave Craig	021 557 588	dave.wave5@gmail.com
	Tom Butler	0278 931 936	trbutler@xtra.co.nz
Web Site	Matt Gouge	0210 777 282	mattgouge@gmail.com
Entertainment	Allan Dixon	021 994 593	allanandjilldixon@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:– A Feather Star in Tonga 2006 by Denis

12th October – Wednesday- 7.00pm Normal Club Meeting.

Guest Speaker is Club Member Laurie Wright.

Laurie has a video and photos on his recent Northern Queensland Coral Seas diving adventure on Mike Ball's live aboard 'Spoilsport' also a video shark feeding in the Bahamas.

27th November 6pm meet will be for our **Xmas Dinner** at 7pm – further details later.

Dive trips, NZ & Overseas – Check out the dive shop's web sites, there is plenty available, but you do need to contact the shops in person to confirm costs & booking availabilities.

From Chris Mardon - Hi Denis

Here are the details of the South Auckland Underwater Club Xmas dive weekend on the Whai.

There could be a couple of spaces spare on our clubs upcoming Xmas dive weekend.

Where : The Mercs

When : 25th-27th November

What : SAUC Xmas dive weekend

Cost : \$495.00

Includes: All food except Friday nights dinner (Schnapper Jacks do good fish & ships etc).

Tea, coffee, fruit juice, fruit plus snacks.

Pilchards and squid bait, plus sea salt for your catch (or beer)

All scuba bottle fills.

Excludes: Scallop dives. Closed season.

We leave Whitianga wharf at 5.00pm Friday 25th Nov, and return to the wharf approx 4.00pm Sun 27th Nov.

If you have never been on the Whai before, you will need to bring your dive certificate with you.

We would expect to do a minimum of 2 dives per day, but could do a third, or night dive on Saturday.

Take your own sleeping bags, and a pillow. If planning to use the upper double beds, you may prefer to bring your own bedding. Also remember to bring your fishing gear

If interested, please contact Chris Mardon on 02102628956 or email jcmardon@slingshot.co.nz

A deposit of \$100 will be required. Balance of \$395.00 due 18th November

[Performance Dive NZ - Ph. 489 7782](https://www.performancediver.co.nz). or

<https://www.performancediver.co.nz/Dive+Trips++Events/All+Upcoming+Dive+Trips.html>

[Global Dive - Ph. 920 5200](https://www.globaldive.net/page/trips). or <https://www.globaldive.net/page/trips>

[Aucklandscubadive – Ph. 478 2814](https://www.aucklandscubadive.co.nz/dive-trips) or <https://www.aucklandscubadive.co.nz/dive-trips>

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, etc.

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.**

NB: All Memberships Now Due: Single – \$40 Family - \$50.00

For the club to continue we need paid up members 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

Hi Denis

I have attached some info on a book about the shipwreck SS Ventnor I have just self-published that may be of interest to some of your Dolphin Club members. Price is \$39.99, plus postage \$7.40.

To order email me at searov@xtra.co.nz with address details. Payment details will then be advised.

Kind regards, **Keith Gordon**

About the author Keith Gordon

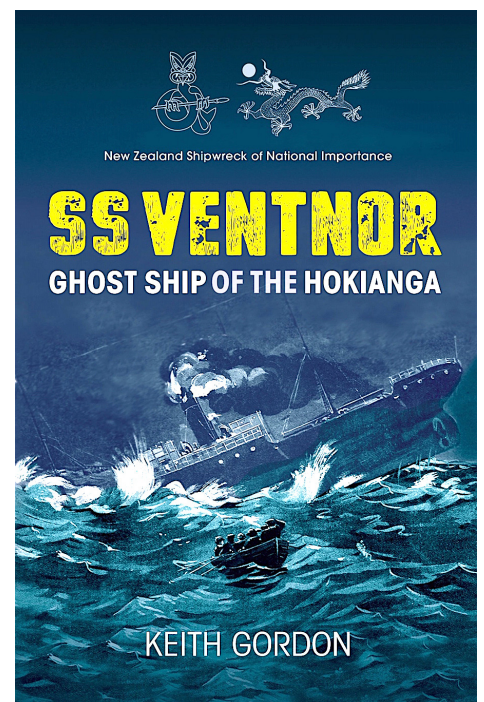
Keith, a retired aircraft engineer now living in Auckland, is a pioneer underwater explorer with extensive underwater and shipwreck exploration experience. He is an International Fellow of The Explorers Club and a past President of the New Zealand Underwater Heritage Group.

With a keen interest in maritime heritage, underwater exploration expeditions have taken Keith to remote areas of the Pacific and South East Asia to search for and explore historical shipwrecks.

In addition to publishing Deep Water Gold – the story of RMS Niagara and co-authoring New Zealand Shipwrecks (8th edition), he has published numerous magazine articles on maritime historical and heritage topics.

The 2013 discovery of the 1902 shipwreck SS Ventnor off the New Zealand North Island coast created major international media interest and controversy. The ship had been transporting the exhumed remains of 499 Chinese miners from New Zealand to China for reburial. In 2021 the bones of the lost miners were found entombed in the deep shipwreck. What is to become of these hungry ghosts of the deep is a question involving

conflicting cultural beliefs and sensitivities. Artefacts recovered from the shipwreck created bureaucratic indecisions and are cause for unprecedented Government legislation of a vessel lost in New Zealand seas.



SS Ventnor – Ghost Ship of the Hokianga: is the full story of the author’s personal involvement with the search, discovery and exploration of a shipwreck of New Zealand national importance. The history of the lost ship, her discovery together with the story of the early New Zealand Chinese gold miners, is a tale involving New Zealand cultural and maritime heritage, daring record-breaking shipwreck exploration, and controversy involving Maori, Chinese and European cultures.

For media enquiries please contact: Keith Gordon, 027 275 1862

searov@xtra.co.nz

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New Zealand Shipwreck of National Importance

GHOST SHIP OF THE HOKIANGA

What is Harming the Ocean More: Climate Change or Overfishing?

In this edition of Ask a Marine Biologist, Dr. David Shiffman compares two grave threats to wild marine life and places. By [David Shiffman](#) August 4, 2021



With multiple forces are pressuring ocean ecosystems, it can be difficult to weigh one threat against the other.

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Question: What's a more immediate threat to the health of our oceans at the moment: climate change or overfishing? -Van, Georgia

Answer: Our ocean and the marine life that call it home face many threats, including not only climate change and overfishing, but habitat destruction, pollution, and more. Last month alone, I saw news stories of [toxic algal blooms killing endangered fish](#) and record heat harming [salmon](#) and other [marine life](#). So what’s the biggest threat?

As with many scientific questions, the answer is “it depends.” It depends on what scale you’re looking at, and what marine life you’re focusing on—the biggest threat to manatees (boat strikes) is not the same thing as the biggest threat to angel sharks (being caught as bycatch). But you asked about the whole ocean, and you asked about in the short-term.

Climate change is [not a far-off problem](#), it's here already—those salmon and other marine animals suffering from a [recent heat wave](#) that was climate change induced. Climate change's worst impacts, however, aren't here yet. Climate will make habitats unlivable for many marine species, including ecologically important species and those we depend on for food. It may be the death knell for many coral reefs, on which so many unique and beautiful species depend. It is already causing large marine life to move into new habitats, with unknown consequences for [the animals already living in the places to which they are migrating](#). And don't forget about [ocean acidification](#), "climate change's evil twin," which will change the very pH of the ocean so that, among other things, shelled organisms cannot build their shells. Climate change is, in short, extremely bad news for the ocean and the animals that live there.

[Overfishing](#) and associated unsustainable fishing practices mean that we aren't just taking too many fish out of the sea, but we're also having indirect harmful impacts on other ocean animals (through bycatch) and on habitats themselves. Increasingly large and powerful fishing vessels mean that few parts of the ocean are safe from humans simply because they're inaccessible to us. When overfishing is allowed to continue and fisheries collapse, this is devastating not only ecologically, but for the humans who depended on that fish stock for food security and livelihoods.

So what's a greater threat to the oceans? I want to stress here that both are extremely bad and we need to focus on solving both, as well as other threats to the ocean. I also want to stress that everything is connected, and climate change (including the aforementioned tendency of species to move in response to climate change) will impact [overfishing](#).

Overfishing is, in my professional opinion, the greatest short- and medium-term threat to marine biodiversity. While many of the worst impacts of climate change aren't here yet and the impacts that are here aren't global in scope yet, many of the worst impacts of overfishing are here now, are already worldwide in scope, and are already affecting entire ecosystems and the humans who depend on them for food and jobs.

The good news is that folks claiming that overfishing is such a big problem that we all need to give up all seafood immediately are not correct, and science-backed sustainable seafood absolutely exists. But it's no accident that non-profits like the Environmental Defense Fund [call overfishing "the greatest threat to the ocean,"](#) or what we regularly see articles like '[Overfishing is a Worse Threat to the Ocean than Climate Change.](#)' And it's no accident that I've chosen to work for an environmental non-profit that focuses on ending overfishing.

[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."



Dr. David Shiffman
Courtesy David Shiffman

Dr. David Shiffman is a marine conservation biologist specializing in the ecology and conservation of sharks. An award-winning public science educator, David has spoken to thousands of people around the world about marine biology and conservation and has bylines with the Washington Post, Scientific American, New Scientist, Gizmodo and more. Follow him on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), where he's always happy to answer any questions about sharks.

The views expressed in this article are those of David Shiffman, and not necessarily the views of *Sport Diver* or *Scuba Diving* magazines.

The New Apple Watch Ultra is Also a Dive Computer

The watch's dive-specific sensors include a depth gauge, water temperature sensor and water resistance up to 120 feet. By [Liz Allen](#) September 21, 2022



“Inspired by explorers and athletes from around the world, we created an entirely new category of Apple Watch designed for new and extreme environments — it’s the most rugged and capable Apple Watch yet,” said Jeff Williams, Apple’s chief operating officer, in a company press release.

Courtesy Apple

Apple’s latest, most advanced watch created to date, the Apple Watch Ultra, is the first smartwatch designed to double as a [dive computer](#). The Apple Watch Ultra (\$799+) was unveiled at Apple’s annual summer event earlier this month alongside two other new Apple watches, the Apple Watch Series 8 (\$399+) and the Apple Watch SE (\$249+). Of the three new Apple watches, only the Apple Watch Ultra is the only one equipped to function as a dive computer.

In addition to features like heart rate monitoring capabilities, emergency SOS response technology and a sleek retina display—which are now standard on all Apple watches—the Apple Watch Ultra is equipped with new, dive-specific sensors, including a depth gauge, water temperature sensor and water resistance to depths of up to 120 feet. It will also have a larger screen, extra screen brightness and enhanced dust resistance compared to other Apple watch models.

To access the Apple Watch Ultra’s dive computer capabilities, users will need to download the Oceanic+ app, a new app designed in collaboration with Apple that is expected to be available in the Apple App Store later this Fall. Its features include:

- Dive planner
- Tide predictions
- Local dive condition data
- [Compass](#)
- Decompression limits
- Excessive ascent rate alerts
- Programmed safety stops

The Oceanic+ app also allows users to track when they can next safely get on an airplane or head to high elevations after a dive.

The watch has a 36-hour battery during normal use and a 49 mm titanium case.



Courtesy Oceanic

The free version of the Oceanic+ app will come equipped with depth tracking, GPS tracking, and [dive logbook](#) features for users to log up to 12 dives. To access the more advanced app features, including the features necessary to make the Apple Watch Ultra function like a complete dive computer, users will need to purchase an app subscription, reported to cost \$5 per day, \$10 per month, or \$80 per year. (USD)

While the Oceanic+ app is not yet configured for free diving, Oceanic+ hopes to release additional advanced features to the app in the future. Oceanic also plans to release an iPhone housing case next summer, which the company says will allow your iPhone to function as both an

underwater camera and dive computer to depths of up to 196 feet. The Apple Watch Ultra will be available in Apple Stores beginning Friday, August 23 USA.

Five Incredible Dives On Ningaloo Reef, Australia's Overlooked Treasure

Here the question isn't "Did you have a good dive?" but "What did you see?"



By [Alexandra Owens](#) September 30, 2022

The crystal blue waters of Ningaloo Reef tempt divers the moment they arrive.

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Mention "diving" and "Australia" to most people and Queensland's [Great Barrier Reef](#) is practically guaranteed to be the first topic of conversation. While that particular natural wonder tends to get all the glory (it can be seen from space, after all), Australia's other UNESCO World Heritage-listed reef—Ningaloo on Western Australia's Coral Coast—is equally worth a visit.

The world's longest fringing reef, it stretches from the seabeds of Carnarvon's Red Bluff to the Muiron Islands and Exmouth Gulf's Bundegi Beach. These sprawling 185-plus miles are a biodiversity hotbed, housing 700 species of reef fish and more than 300 types of coral, as well as rare and endangered animals like dugongs, manta rays, dolphins, tiger sharks, loggerhead turtles and leopard sharks. Ningaloo boasts the biggest known aggregation of whale sharks (March-July) and is a nursery for some 35,000 migrating humpback whales (July-October). Come during the right season, and it's possible to check a mess of charismatic megafauna off your bucket list.

While it's a journey to reach one of the most far-flung parts of this vast country, the reef's spectacular wilderness is within easy reach once you arrive: Because Ningaloo is a near-shore reef system, most of its 200-plus dive sites are a mere 20-30 minutes away by boat. Hard-to-reach also means fewer visitors, so the coral is pristine and full of flourishing fish.

Blizzard Ridge at Lighthouse Bay

Blizzard Ridge, located along the inner reef's Lighthouse Bay, earned its name for two distinct reasons. On a windy day, the sandy bottom here tends to stir up, creating "blizzard-like" conditions with poor visibility. Yet when the weather does cooperate, lucky divers will fin through so many swirls of shoaling reef fish that Blizzard Ridge can feel like a mesmerizing storm of [marine life](#). Part of Ningaloo's sanctuary zones, the site is also home to olive-headed sea snakes, rock cod, white tips, porcupine rays and thriving giant morays with skulls not much smaller than a pitbull's. On occasion, you may even encounter a leopard shark, wobbegong, manta ray or dugong.

Labyrinth at Lighthouse Bay

A local favorite, the aptly named Labyrinth features a maze of limestone craters and swim-throughs that can disorient the uninitiated. The crevices draw in a diverse array of marine life, from white tips napping in caves to crayfish crawling over staghorns and gorgonian sea fans to schools of fusiliers deftly navigating coral outcrops. It's also a go-to spot for octopus, sweet lips, batfish, moray eels, groupers, blue spotted rays and many of Western Australia's 20-plus varieties of [sea snake](#). Thanks to local no take laws, the wildlife here is noticeably relaxed and willing to cruise along with divers—sometimes they're even a bit curious. It's not unusual for a bolder sea snake to examine itself playfully in your mask. Another highlight is the turtle cleaning station, where green sea turtles and occasionally loggerheads or hawksbills enjoy a spa treatment.

Exmouth Navy Pier

Jacks school at the Navy Pier.

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No trip to Ningaloo is complete without a dive (or several) at the 300-meter Navy Pier, which is frequently rated as one of the top ten shore dives in the world. It attracts—at last count—over 200 different species. Diving here can feel a bit like dipping into an aquarium filled with creatures of every shape; look for wobbegongs, gray nurse sharks, scorpion fish, snappers, nudibranchs, Moorish idols, parrotfish, sea snakes, cuttlefish and the BFG (Big Friendly Grouper), a beloved resident that somehow has developed a knack for sneaking up on divers despite his 600-pound-plus size.



The pier stands alone on an isolated part of the coast that is not accessible to the general public (or fishermen) as it still occasionally services the nearby Australian naval base. Currently, [Dive Ningaloo](#) is the only operator to hold a license for scuba diving tours at the Navy Pier.

Ranger's Bommies

Situated across from a Cape Range National Park's ranger posts, this under-the-radar gem is frequented by [liveaboards](#) and snorkelers. Don't let the shallowness (20-30 feet) of the site fool you—there's magic hiding in the sand and underneath the impressive, healthy Porites coral bommies that give the area its name. While schools of bream, parrotfish and pufferfish circle overhead, immense stingrays wedge themselves underneath the coral structures. Charismatic species like leopard sharks, manta rays and lemon sharks patrol the perimeter of the reef, while shovelnose guitarfish bury themselves, blinking conspicuously at passersby.

Cod Spot at the Muiron Islands



Manta rays are a key encounter at Ningaloo Reef. Shutterstock.com/Lewis Burnett

Many divers at Ningaloo are on the lookout for manta rays and, despite its name, this relatively far-flung site (a 1.5 hour boat ride from shore) is one place you're likely to find them. The site's large bommie (a coral outcrop) serves as a cleaning station for rays as well as turtles and white tips. Even when the rays don't make an appearance, there's plenty to see, including octopus, stingrays, sweet lips, angelfish, goatfish, rabbitfish, massive schools of fusilier and the site's namesake potato cod. But during Ningaloo's

humpback whale season (July-October) the most exhilarating part of your dive may be what you can hear; an invisible chorus of chirps and moans that seem close, but just out of reach.

This dive location is probably overlooked by most of us in the club, but would be well worth considering sometime as a trip to Western Australia. Ed

Dive shops etc. listings next month (needs updating & I have to visit & get new business cards etc. Ed.)

The MAF regulations vary in particular when it comes to your catch size/limits & locations.

Practice being safe & staying safe for you & your buddies & we will see you all at the club meeting