

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club

Newsletter November 2022

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wednesday 9th November 2022

Speaker – Nuie Is. Dive Trip– Down memory lane

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
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Web Site	Matt Gouge	0210 777 282	mattgouge@gmail.com
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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:- Coral Shrimp in Tonga by Denis

9th November – Wednesday- 7.00pm Normal Club Meeting, Power point presentation– Nuie Is. Dive trip

27th November 6pm meet will be for our **Xmas Dinner at 7pm** – Details at the meeting.

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.

[Performance Dive NZ - Ph. 489 7782](https://www.performancediver.co.nz/Dive+Trips++Events/All+Upcoming+Dive+Trips.html). 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**

Department of Conservation

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Hector's dolphin in Northland for first time in 100 years!

We can now confirm that there were two sightings of the rare Hector's dolphin in the Mangonui harbour last weekend. This is the first confirmed sighting of a Hector's dolphin on Northland's east coast in 100 years! Hector's were once found along the coast of most of the South Island as well as parts of the North Island, but today, Hector's dolphins are classified as Nationally Vulnerable, with an estimated population of 15,700 individuals, and are only known to live in different sub-populations around the South Island.

Even though this news of a Hector's dolphin returning to Northland is fantastic we're asking locals and visitors that if they see the dolphin, to steer clear and allow it to enjoy the environment without hindrance or harassment.

If you see a Hector's dolphin in any location in New Zealand please report it to 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Reports to DOC help build knowledge and understanding of the species.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3T1QHyK>

: Stent, Danica - Hector's dolphin in Akaroa (not the actual dolphin in Northland)

From Margaret - Hi Everyone

Wow, this looks like an entertaining event, contact Chris Nipper for further details.

May see you there. Cheers Margaret

NEW ZEALAND UNDERWATER HERITAGE GROUP Inc. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

Auckland Rose Park Hotel, Parnell, Auckland. Saturday Nov. 19th 2022

PROGRAM (Tentative)

0830 – Meet & Greet

0900 – Opening Address

0915 - RECENT DISCOVERIES OF LOST WORLD WAR 2 AIRCRAFT IN VANUATU – Ewan Stevenson & Dave Moran of the Sealark Team.

1000 - Coffee/Tea Break

1020 – GENERAL GRANT 1986-2022 – Bill Day relates his search expeditions for the elusive 1866 Auckland Island's shipwreck

1100 – GENERAL GRANT PANEL DISCUSSION - Bill Day and a panel of previous search participants discuss their thoughts on the problems involved with finding the wreck

1130 – HERITAGE NZ – Dr. Kurt Bennet discusses the GIRT Program and the Whitianga Buffalo shipwreck survey project (to be confirmed)

1215 – Lunch – Hotel Buffet available

1315 – DIVECAT SALVAGE – Norm Holtzhausen describes his efforts searching for and salvaging his lost dive charter boat

1400 – CROATIA – SEARCH AND SURVEY OF A 2 A.D. ROMAN SHIPWRECK SITE –

Dave Moran & Keith Gordon report on their recent involvement with an archaeological search and survey project off a remote Croatian Island

1500 – Break

1515 – THE CONTINUING SEARCH PROJECT FOR THE REMAINS OF THE 1842 WRECK OF THE BROTHERS IN AKAROA HARBOUR - Keith Gordon updates the ongoing search project.

1600 – Conference Finish – Closing Remarks

1630 – AGM including the 2022 Kelly Tarlton Award

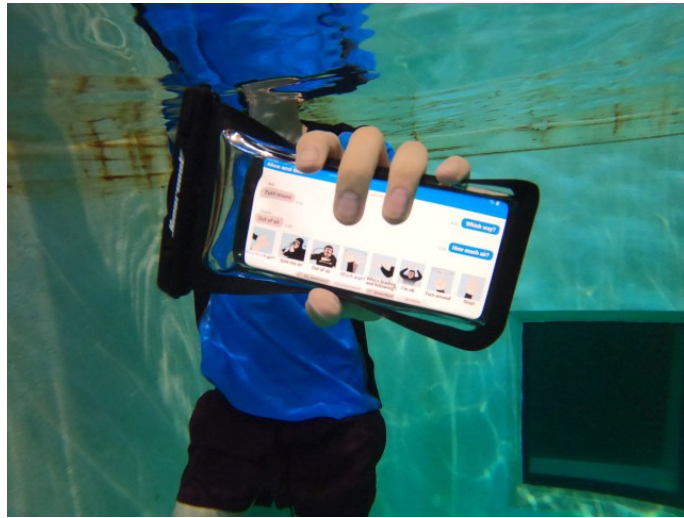
1730 – Social Hour - Rose Garden Hotel bar & lounge

1900 – Dinner – At the Auckland Rose Garden Hotel Restaurant

New messaging app lets you communicate underwater



[Katherine Hignett](#) Wednesday 31 Aug 2022



This is the first mobile app for sending and receiving messages underwater that works on existing smartphones — no special hardware required. The app overcome (Credit: University of Washington)

Researchers have created a messaging app that could make life a whole lot better down where it's wetter.

Unless you're regularly trying to contact friends under the sea, you may not be aware that WiFi and Bluetooth signals don't travel very well through water.

But [having a way to send messages could actually be very useful for divers](#), both recreational and professional.

At the moment, divers tend to communicate with hand gestures. But these are relatively limited, especially when visibility is low.

The 'AquaApp' from researchers at the University of Washington have developed could help solve this problem. Instead of relying on radio signals, it uses sound to send information from one device to another.

Co-lead author and University of Washington doctoral student Tuochao Chen said: 'Smartphones rely on radio signals like WiFi and Bluetooth for wireless communication. Those don't propagate well underwater, but acoustic signals do.'

'With AquaApp, we demonstrate underwater messaging using the speaker and microphone widely available on smartphones and watches. Other than downloading an app to their phone, the only thing people will need is a waterproof phone case rated for the depth of their dive.'

The app itself contains 240 pre-written messages that match the hand signals normally used by professionals. The 20 most popular gestures are also displayed on the app's landing page for easy access.

The team faced a multitude of challenges when building the app to make sure their acoustic signals travelled successfully underwater. They had to factor everything from the way noise bounces off the seabed and surfaces, the ambient subsurface sounds produced by boats and aquatic creatures to the differences in microphone and speaker technology across handsets into their calculations to make sure their signals are strong enough.

The algorithm they created figures out the best kinds of acoustic signal to send, based on the current conditions of a device.

Before actually sending a message, the app shoots a ‘preamble’ to its target device. This triggers the target to run the algorithm and work out the optimal bitrate and acoustic frequency the sender should use to communicate.



At the moment, if divers want to communicate with each other they need to use hand signals (Credit: Shutterstock)

This information goes back to the sender’s device, which uses these optimal settings to finally transmit a proper message.

Based on testing, the app works best ‘up to 30 meters for sending and receiving messages underwater, and 100 meters for transmitting SoS beacons,’ co-lead author and doctoral student Justin Chen said. ‘These capabilities should be sufficient for most recreational and professional scenarios.’

Testing also shows it doesn’t drain a phone’s battery life too significantly, using up 32% of the charge of a Samsung Galaxy S9 phone when used for four hours with the volume at max and the screen on.

The fact the app can be used on a normal smartphone, ‘brings underwater communication to the masses,’ said senior study author professor Shyam Gollakota.

‘AquaApp has the potential to change that status quo by democratizing underwater technology and making it as easy as downloading software on your smartphone.’

The research paper was presented at the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on Data Communications 2022 Conference.

Diver stranded at sea 30 miles off shore records his 'final moments'



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Last updated 10:07, 19 August 2022 BST

Featured Image Credit: Jacob Childs/YouTube

A man who became stranded 30 miles out to sea captured what he thought were his [final moments](#). See what happened: [Jacob Childs](#) was out with a group of divers off the coast of south-east [Queensland, Australia](#), back in 2016 when he got into a bit of trouble.

As he rose out of the water, the 30-year-old lost sight of the safety rope and could see the boat moving away.

Despite his best efforts to keep up with the trawler, it eventually moved out of sight, and he was left all alone for six hours. With the sun quickly setting,

Jacob didn't believe the rescue team would be able to find him in the dark, and decided to capture what he feared were his final moments.

In the video, he says: "So that's it. The sun goes down they won't do nothing. That's a wrap on old Jakey."

In a follow-up, the diver said he got into trouble when he surfaced and found that the rope had been pulled in.

Jacob told [ABC News](#) at the time: "We took a while to anchor up ... which left us [with] several people in different states of readiness. I was one of the first to hop in [to the water]."

"It was then 15 minutes before the last people hopped in ... in which time we were fighting the current the whole way.

"Then we started to descend down the line. One person was up the top, so I went to swap hands and I missed the rope ... so I surfaced alongside to the boat.

He told the [Express](#): "It's a long time to spend by yourself, and it's a long swim back to shore.

"There's nothing to judge where you are. All the waves look the same and there's no land to try and gage yourself against.

"I think they picked me up eight miles from where we were diving."

Jacob said: "I was nice and warm in my wetsuit ... I wasn't overly tired as I was floating.

A huge rescue mission was launched but didn't find him for some time. Credit: Jacob Childs/YouTube

"I just wanted a drink of water and a cup of tea."

The officer in charge of the rescue mission, Sergeant Rob Jorna, said Jacob's experience as a diver and an instructor made it possible for the team to find him.

"He knew what to do, and his level headedness at the time, and he didn't panic and he did all the right things, and activated his safety equipment which alerted the air observer," he said.



NB: This next article could very well pertain to our local quarry at Lake Pupuke. Ed.

Fast water, shopping carts and rocks ‘Merman Mike’ shares first-hand knowledge of drowning danger

A local YouTuber who dives Sacramento's rivers sees the rocks and snags beneath the surface that can be hazardous to swimmers and boaters. Author: Becca Habegger

FOLSOM, Calif. — Water rescues and drownings in recent days — paired with ongoing high temperatures — are prompting warnings from public safety officials, as fast-moving, cold water can threaten swimmers seeking relief from the heat.

“Merman Mike” is also urging people to be careful. Mike Pelley is a local [YouTuber](#), who dives for valuables lost in local rivers and then works to return the items to their owners. He even picks up the trash he finds.

He met up with ABC10 along the American River Monday, near the Rainbow Bridge — a popular spot for cliff jumpers.

“It’s an extremely dangerous spot, and I find all sorts of things down there like [Apple watches](#), necklaces, rings, phones. Tons of stuff, so a lot of people are losing their things as well,” Pelley said.

He doesn’t want people losing their things — or their lives, and he knows what is lurking just beneath the surface.

“In this particular one,” he said, gesturing just below the Rainbow Bridge, “there is a shopping cart, there’s some rocks, there are some pretty dangerous things.”

These are things people can hit their heads on or get their feet stuck in and drown. Even for people on boats or just swimming, Pelley said rocks can take you by surprise.

“A lot of these rocks – it’s like an iceberg: you can see about 10% of them and they’re giant boulders that go down probably 20, 25 feet, and they also go out a large surface area. So although you see a little point that’s coming out, you try to go around it and end up hitting a rock that’s maybe six inches below the surface,” he said. “It stops that paddleboard or kayak or little raft, but you keep going and end up falling out, and if there’s a large current and very fast-moving water, you could end up with your boat being left behind and you being sent downriver, and it’s always a dangerous situation.”

That’s why he and the [Drowning Accident Rescue Team](#) (DART) recommend people wear life jackets.

“Right now, the water is both faster and colder than it was a couple of weeks ago, so the risk is a little bit higher than normal,” DART spokesperson Zachary Corbo said.

[The CDC lists drowning](#) as one of the top causes of death for kids 14 and younger. In Sacramento County, wearing a life jacket is required for kids on the river who are 12 and younger.

“I’m never trying to make it sound like the river is this awful, scary place, but you want to know the dangers so you can enjoy the beauty,” Pelley said.

Corbo noted that while any drowning is terrible, the number of drownings in the Sacramento area is down from about five years ago.

Still—for context—Folsom Lake State Recreation Area typically sees two or three drownings per year, and so far this year, they’ve already seen four with much more of the season still ahead.

“The number of drownings that we’ve seen this year is a little bit higher than we would expect, unfortunately, and many of these are unfortunately preventable,” Corbo said. “If folks had been wearing life jackets, they may have been able to be rescued or get themselves closer to shore. That’s why we would always recommend—if you’re in the water or on a vessel, know where the life jackets are or wear one the entire time. It may be the difference between life and death.”

Great White App to track and advise on safe water



By [Jim Birchall](#) 27 Oct, 2022

Dr Riley Elliott's Great White App is a citizen-empowered project to help people co-exist with one of nature's greatest apex predators. Photo / Clinton Duffy

In February 2020, a juvenile Great White shark bit the surfboard of a surfer in Pauanui Beach.

Dr Riley Elliott, who specialises in shark behaviour and migration, later saw evidence of another Great White shark around a fishing boat at the Bowentown end of Tauranga Harbour.

During the summer of 2020-21, Dr Elliott photo-identified 15 individual Great White sharks from ones caught accidentally or filmed by fishermen in the Bowentown Harbour. Great Whites were again being regularly encountered by fishermen in the Bowentown area last summer along the coastline of the Bay of Plenty.

Surfers and water users were seeing them often, being bumped, and one teenage surfer was launched at by a Great White while riding a wave.

Dr Elliott hypothesised that there may be a growing population of juvenile Great Whites inhabiting the Bay of Plenty and Coromandel regions due to factors that include the success of Great White conservation programmes, climate change and increasing persistence of La Nina weather systems which spread the shark's habitat, along with changes to fishing methods like the banning of inshore gill nets. Dr Elliott recognised that a probable increase in Great White presence, overlapping with one of New Zealand's largest summer holiday hotspots, required investigation.

After attaining a DoC permit in June 2022, Dr Elliott is now able to commence some much-needed research on the Great Whites which have seen a significant increase and persistence of Great Whites in the region.

He was able to hold a community meeting at the Bowentown Boating and Fishing Club, where he provided context and rationale about why the sharks were likely present, and how to best operate over the summer period in order to avoid possible adverse interactions.

[Updating dive shop's contact details still in progress](#)

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