

NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club

Newsletter November 2023

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wednesday 8th November 2023

What's on : Kingfish Secrets DVD

www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz



**Club's Mail Address
14 Gails Drive
Okura
RD2 Albany**



**Club Contacts Inside
Website As Above**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2023/2024

President/Entertainment	Allan Dixon	021 994 593	allanandjilldixon@xtra.co.nz
Vice-President	Chris Nipper	021 991 732	akidna27@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Denis Adams	0278 970 922	da.triden@gmail.com
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
	Peter Howard	0225 194 046	pete.howard@xtra.co.nz
Web Site	Matt Gouge	0210 777 282	mattgouge@gmail.com

Life Members Barry Barnes, Margaret Howard, Peter Howard, Brian Horton, Reg Lawson, Roberto Tonei, Denis Adams, Trish Mahon-Adams, Dave Quinlan

Honorary Members Graham Thumah, Tony Enderby, Jenny Enderby, Eileen Slark.

Cover Page Photo:– We are an adventure club after all! – Rotorua Bike trail by Denis

8th Nov. – Wed. – 7.00pm – Club Room –DVD Kingfish Secrets by Geoff Thomas– Northcote Rd Ext'n

9th – 29th Nov. – 10 days – P&O Cruise around NZ – Some club members will be sailing.

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, or <https://www.performancediver.co.nz/Dive+Trips++Events>

Global Dive - Ph. 920 5200, or <https://www.globaldive.net/page/trips> .

Aucklandscubadive – Ph. 478 2814 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

Divers find invasive New Zealand mud snail at Lake Tahoe

By Cecilio Padilla September 21, 2023 / 12:19 PM / CBS Sacramento

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE – The invasive New Zealand mud snail has been discovered in Lake Tahoe, officials announced on Thursday.

According to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, divers recently found the mud snail in parts of Tahoe's south shore. It's the first time the potentially disruptive mud snail has been detected in Tahoe, the agency said.



The invasive New Zealand mud snail.
MARINE TAXONOMIC SERVICES

"It is critical that everyone remain vigilant and adhere to the mantra of Clean, Drain, and Dry," said TRPA Executive Director Julie Regan in a statement.

Scientists and divers are now being deployed to survey the extent of the infestation.

Exactly how the species got to Tahoe has not been determined, but officials are urging visitors to be diligent about efforts to clean, drain, and dry boats before slipping into any new body of water.

Officials say the New Zealand mud snail are of particular concern due to their small size – often being smaller than a grain of rice – and how fast they can outcompete native species.

Along with California, officials say the New Zealand mud snail has been detected in 21 other states.

Invasive seaweed detected at Waiheke Island, divers to investigate



Erin Johnson 16:35, Aug 02 2023

Waiheke Marine Project/Supplied
Exotic seaweed *Caulerpa* has been identified at Waiheke Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

An [exotic and invasive seaweed](#) has reached Waiheke Island.

The Waiheke Marine Project has been doing surveillance for the invasive seaweed, *Caulerpa*, that has already become established at Aotea Great Barrier Island, and notified Biosecurity New Zealand on

Saturday that they had found the seaweed off the island's northern coast near Thompson's Point.

According to experts, the *Caulerpa* species [outcompete native seaweeds](#), smother shellfish beds and reduce the diversity of sealife.

The Waiheke Marine Project provided underwater video footage which Niwa's Marine Invasive Taxonomic Service has provisionally identified as *Caulerpa*, Biosecurity New Zealand said.

“We would like to thank the Waiheke Marine Project and Ngāti Pāoa for their commitment to Caulerpa research and their fast action informing us. They found the new infestation on their third survey in the island’s waters using a remote operated vehicle.”



Waiheke Marine Project/Supplied

Exotic seaweed Caulerpa has been identified at two sites at Thompson’s Point, Waiheke Island.

Biosecurity NZ expects to have scientific divers in the water on Thursday to assess the scale of the find.

The Caulerpa in the area appears to be young plants in the early stages of establishment, but surveillance dives are needed to provide a full picture, the agency said.

The invasive seaweed has also been found at Ahuahu Great Mercury Island and was [identified at Kawau Island in July](#).

In May, it was [found in the Bay of Islands](#), where new rules have been put in place that make it [illegal to fish or anchor](#) in the area of Te Rāwhiti.

RNZ: Caulerpa invader seaweed

RNZ: The invasive seaweed caulerpa has been found in the Bay of Islands. Aotea Great Barrier Environmental trustee and former Massey University professor Barry Scott tells RNZ about how difficult it is to get rid of the marine invader.

Kaiwhakatere of Waiheke Marine Project, Miranda O’Connell, said the group conducted underwater drone surveys in January and March.

After Caulerpa was found at Kawau in July the group realised it needed to do another survey, O’Connell said.

“We believe currents are one of the biggest vectors, along with boats and fishing gear.”

After the seaweed was discovered at two sites during surveying on Saturday, the group decided it was crucial to get more information and contracted a team of science divers who were in the water on Tuesday.

They confirmed it was Caulerpa, O’Connell said.

“Ngāti Pāoa and the Waiheke Marine Project have a goal of being in the water doing removal and reduction techniques within 15 days.”

Biosecurity NZ is about to start large-scale Caulerpa treatment feasibility trials at Aotea Great Barrier Island and Te Rāwhiti Inlet in Northland and a further elimination project at Kawau Island.

Caulerpa can be reported on the pest hotline 0800 80 99 66.

What did divers discover in Belize's Great Blue Hole?

Divers found debris and human corpses during an expedition to the Great Blue Hole off the coast of Belize.

The Great Blue Hole off the coast of Belize. (photo credit: Wikimedia Commons)



Divers reached the bottom of Belize's iconic Great Blue Hole – only to discover that the pristine natural wonder isn't so pristine after all and is actually full of disturbing debris.

The Great Blue Hole is a giant marine sinkhole off the coast of Belize in the Caribbean that has [left scientists and tourists curious](#) for years. It extends over 318 meters, is about 124 meters deep, and is considered one of the leading attractions in the country.

A team of divers from Aquatica Submarines went on an expedition in 2018 but went viral

this week as "proof that humans are terrible".

The goal of the expedition, funded by billionaire Richard Branson was to reach the bottom and create a 3D map of the sinkhole. When the team, including Branson, first reached the bottom they marveled at marine animals such as sea turtles, reef sharks, and giant corals. However, when they reached a depth of 90 meters, [life began to disappear](#).

Erika Bergman, who was part of the expedition, explained that a thick layer of toxic hydrogen sulfide stretched over the surface of the sinkhole and prevented oxygen from reaching the inside.



Satellite of Belize's Great Blue Hole.
(credit: Wikimedia Commons)

Human corpses found

“We found conches and [conch shells and hermit crabs](#) that had fallen into the hole and suffocated,” she said in an interview at the time.

The team also found a two-litre Coke bottle that had made its way to a depth of more than 100 meters, as well as a lost GoPro camera.

A more shocking discovery awaited them next to the garbage - there were also two human bodies, which likely belonged to two of the three divers who were lost inside the sinkhole on a previous expedition.

“We found the resting place of a couple of folks, and we very respectfully let the Belize government know where we found them. Everyone decided that we would just not attempt any recovery. It's very dark and peaceful down there, just kind of let them stay,” Bergman said.

Not all of the team's discoveries were so grim. The divers also located stalactites, a type of mineral formation that usually hangs from the roof of a cave. The stalactites proved that the site was once a dry cave for prehistoric life.

The scientists believe that the cave was formed during the last ice age, and was flooded and collapsed 14,000 years ago as the ice age ended and the sea level rose.

The expedition's discoveries went viral this week and many people online expressed shock at the disturbing findings.

"Is there a place for humans to leave clean of their filth?" wrote one surfer.

"Even a place humans have never visited contains so much of our trash. Humanity is horrible," added another.

Branson described the expedition as "one of the starkest reminders of the danger of climate change that I have ever seen."

"The real monsters in the ocean are [climate change](#) and plastic. Unfortunately, we saw plastic bottles at the bottom of the pit which is the real scourge of the ocean. We all have to get rid of single-use plastic," Branson concluded.

This underwater photographer's a bench mark for all of us to learn from. Ed.

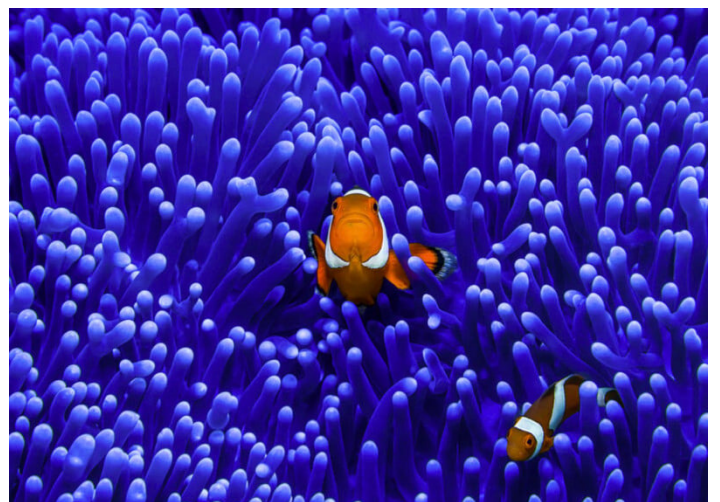
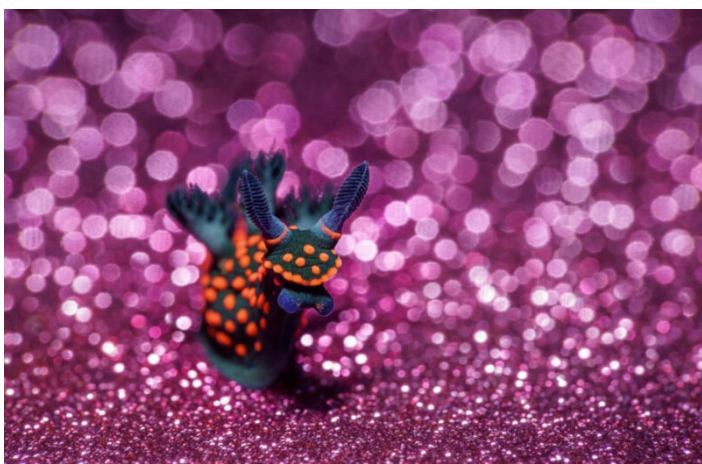
Photographer Who Spends 500 Hours Underwater Each Year Shares His Best Shots

Sep 29, 2023 by [Matt Growcoot](#)



A photographer who takes stunning photos of marine life tells us he spends 500 hours underwater each year.

Andrey Savin shoots his photos in the Philippines where he lives and captures all manner of exotic sea creatures; including turtles, squids, eels, and clownfish.



“



Underwater, the body works in ‘light’ mode and the brain in ‘turbo’ mode,” says Savin. “You have to analyse everything at once and very quickly.”

Savin, who regularly dives solo, says that while beneath the waves he is looking for “unusual behavior, beautiful natural light, rare sea creatures, successful combination of colors, and expressive faces.”

“This is not a complete list, but those are the aspects that I intuitively use when building a frame. I also try not to make the image look like it was shot with flash, I strive for maximum naturalness and natural beauty,” he adds.

Although Savin doesn’t want his photos to look like it’s been lit with flash — something he achieves time and time again — he does take a lot of lighting down into the deep blue with him.

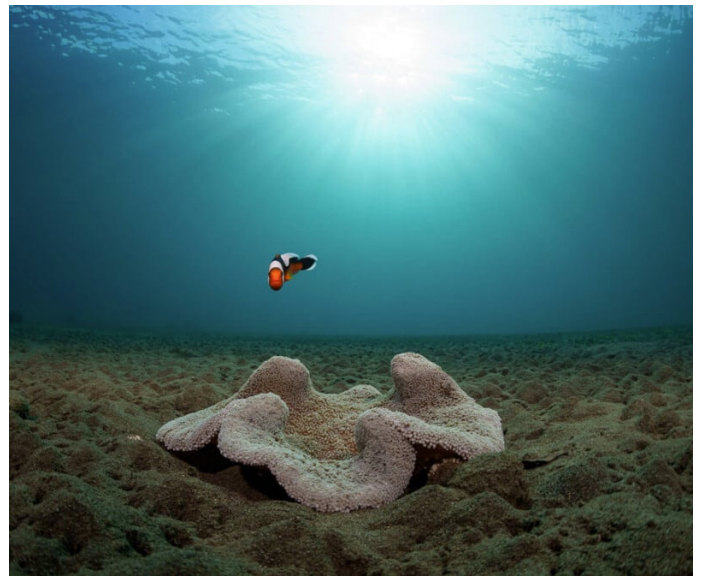
“I have two cameras: the main one is a [Sony A7R IV](#) which gives amazing resolution (I’m switching to the A7R V now) and the backup camera is a Panasonic GH5 with an external recorder Atomos Ninja V (mainly for video shooting),” he explains.

“I use a dozen excellent lenses in conjunction with these cameras. Among my favorites are the Canon 8-15mm fisheye, a Sony 90mm macro for full frame, an Olympus 60mm macro, and an Olympus 7-14mm for micro four-thirds.

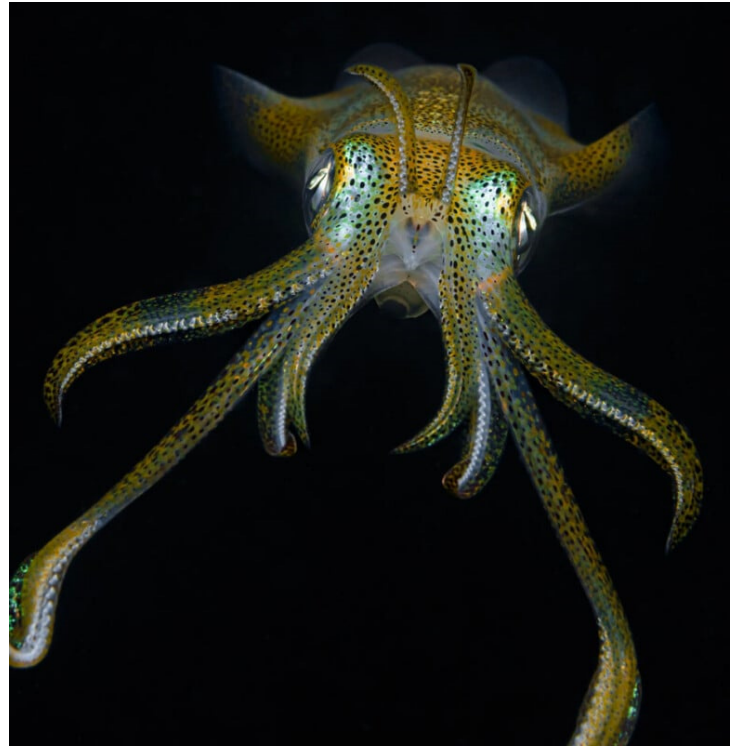


“And then there are eight flashes and more than 10 underwater lights. After all, light underwater is a major factor in success. Don’t think it’s all about the number of lumens, not at all. Quality of light and flexibility of control are of paramount importance.”





Shots to strive for. Ed.





Savin says that anyone can develop their skills in the water given enough practice, something he has himself in abundance.

“Although I stopped counting the number of dives I do a long time ago, I estimate that I spend more than 500 hours underwater per year,” he says.

“As for photography, it is an endless process. Before every dive, I set clear goals that I want to achieve. This is the key to progressive movement and development of my abilities,” he says.

“I love to test new equipment and cooperate with a number of brands. I am sure that the qualitative leap in skills (both diving and photography) occurs when you move to solo diving — when you can count only on yourself, on your own strength and skills — it significantly increases the level of responsibility and gives complete freedom.”

More of Savin’s work can be found on his [Instagram](#) and [website](#).

Image credits: Photographs by Andrey Savin

And this story right on our back door step (beach)

Auckland man films orcas up close after they 'beeline' into shallows

[By Jack Horsnell, Digital Reporter](#)

Mon, Oct 9

Justin Serville had a rare encounter with the huge marine mammals - after they decided to check him out in the water. (Source: Supplied)

An Auckland man had a magical encounter with a pod of curious orca, after they swam towards him in shallow water on Saturday afternoon.

North Shore local Justin Serville, an ocean enthusiast, heard about a pod of orca swimming around Browns and Murray's Bay.

He went down to Thorne Bay Beach, near Milford, to see if he'd be able to catch a glimpse of the marine mammals as they passed by.

Serville hopped in the water, paddling out 20 metres, when two of the orcas “beelined it” straight towards him in the shallow water.

“The fin was just coming straight towards me,” he said.

Despite this, Serville said he wasn't nervous.

As it came closer, he pressed record on his GoPro, filming it swim past – taking a curious look at him as it glided by.

“I was just buzzing. I was really nervous pressing record, hoping to get in the frame.

“And the shot was just amazing, getting it looking at me as it swims past and that beautiful beating tail as it swims away.”

As they swam away, Serville decided to follow the pod, watching them travel around the coast.

He followed them to Narrow Neck Beach, where the same orca once again came to check him out – this time only 15 metres away from the shore.

“They’re obviously very intelligent creatures.

“But I didn’t have any fear – fear equals food, and love equals connection, I guess.”

He had just come off the buzz of swimming with dolphins days earlier when he captured the up-close video.

Last week, he heard about a pod of dolphins swimming around the Takapuna area, rushing to the beach to check them out.

A group of friendly dolphins get up close and personal with beachgoers

Justin Serville had two encounters with dolphins, before he saw orcas up close. (Source: Supplied)

The marine mammals swam around him and other beachgoers close to the shore.

“It was just stunning, fantasy stuff,” he told 1News.

“It was sunny. There was a rainbow in the sky. The energy was amazing.”

(Picture not of Takapuna Beach)



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

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

NB: Especially in the Hauraki Gulf area, things have changed.

Please familiarise yourself with them

