

# **NZ Dolphin Underwater & Adventure Club**

## **Newsletter July 2024**

Club Meeting 7:00pm Wed 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**What's on :** Wreck of the SS Tasmania by Terry Brailsford

**[www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz](http://www.dolphinunderwater.co.nz)**



Club's Mail Address  
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Club Contacts Inside  
Website As Above

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS: 2024/2025

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**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:– by Denis**

### **WHAT'S ON?**

**10<sup>th</sup> July. – Wed. – 7.00pm – Club Room** – Northcote Rd Ext'n, Takapuna. Wreck of the SS Tasmania

**16<sup>th</sup> July –Tue – 9:30am & 12:30pm – EMR Guide to Rock Pool Exploration** – Takapuna Boat Ramp East

**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**



## Standout Stay: Glamping and Diving in Western Australia

Sustainability is front and centre at Sal Salis, an eco-luxury retreat alongside Australia's Ningaloo Reef

By [Alexandra Owens](#) | Updated On March 11, 2024



A standard safari tent at Sal Salis.  
*Courtesy Sal Salis*

Not all eco-luxury retreats practice what they preach. But [Sal Salis](#), a safari-style camp located less than 200 feet from Western Australia's World Heritage-listed Ningaloo coral reef, understands the importance—and responsibility—of caring for the treasures in its own backyard.

Operated under lease with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the property champions sustainability and natural wonder, providing an ideal home base for divers who are eager to explore the world's longest fringing reef.

Diving at Ranger's Bommies dive site.

*Exmouth Dive & Whale Sharks Ningaloo*

### Australia's Other World Heritage Reef

Australia is no easy trek for American divers, and Ningaloo—on the opposite coast of the Great Barrier Reef and Sydney—tacks on an extra seven hours of flying time, excluding transfers. But the journey to this far-flung reef is worth it. A biodiversity hotspot boasting over 500 species of fish and more than 250 types of coral, as well as rare and charismatic animals like dugongs, dolphins, tiger sharks, manta rays, loggerhead turtles and leopard sharks, Ningaloo has the world's largest known aggregation of whale sharks (March-August). It is also a nursery for some 35,000 migrating humpback whales (July-October).



Because Ningaloo is a near-shore reef system, most of its 200-plus dive sites are a quick boat ride away. When staying at Sal Salis, all you have to do is book with one of the local operations, such as [Dive Ningaloo](#) and [Exmouth Dive and Whale Sharks Ningaloo](#), or step into the ocean right outside your tent. Depending on the site, snorkelling can be just as good as diving.

A leopard shark glides along the ocean floor at Ningaloo Reef.

*Exmouth Dive & Whale Sharks Ningaloo*





## A Sustainable Paradise

Elegantly camouflaged into the sand dunes of Cape Range National Park, Sal Salis hardly registers as you pass by—and that’s the point. Perched on wooden platforms that simultaneously afford expansive coastal views and prevent soil erosion, the property could move tomorrow without leaving a single footprint behind.

Sal Salis operates under strict rules in accordance with its landlords, Australia’s Department of Parks and Wildlife: Almost 100% of the camp’s power is solar-powered. Each tent is allotted 20 litres of water per person per day, while the en-suite bathrooms come equipped with a non-flushable composting waterless toilet. Meanwhile, guests are asked not to use non-organic bathroom products, and to limit themselves to three-minute showers (a daunting request until you realize the pleasure of waking up with a bath in the Indian Ocean). It’s all done to protect the stunning environment that surrounds you, and ensures that a stay here is truly off-the-grid.



The author after snorkeling along Turquoise Bay.

*Alexandra Owens*

### Break Down the Details For Me

**Rooms:** These days “glamping” can mean everything from actual camping to staying at a hotel with woodsy interior design and a couple deer on the property. Sal Salis is as close as you can come to a true outdoor experience that, okay sure, pampers you a little bit without toeing over the line into full-blown luxury territory.

Each of the property’s 16 spacious safari tents offers everything you need to be perfectly comfortable, including a generous linen-dressed bed, private bathroom with organic herb soap, deck hammock, solar-powered light and USB charger. (Note that if you want to charge your laptop or camera, you’ll need to do so in the main lodge). Drinking water and daily cleaning service are provided.

**Food & Drink:** Gather around the lodge’s communal table for a candlelit meal featuring local, seasonal produce; gourmet dishes like filet with chimichurri and avocado salad served with curated wine pairings are not your standard campfire fare. All packages include three meals per day, a self-serve bar with Western Australian wines, beers and spirits, plus snacks and nightly canapés. Most dietary preferences can be accommodated with advance notice.

A shovelnose guitarfish buries itself in the sand along Ningaloo Reef.

*Exmouth Dive & Whale Sharks Ningaloo*

**Top Dive Site:** It’s hard to resist the [Exmouth Navy Pier](#), considered by many to be one of the best shore dives in the world. Home to over 200 fish species, the site boasts outstanding biodiversity despite its relatively shallow depth (max 50 feet). Look out for the 600-pound-plus BFG (Big Friendly Grouper), plus tasselled wobbegongs, fantastical nudibranchs and curious sea snakes.



**Topside Fun:** Every day is packed with a new list of complementary activities that guests can sign up for, curated by the property's guides according to the weather and tide. Hike Mandu Mandu Gorge in search of rare black-footed rock wallabies, go sea kayaking to hidden spots known only by the locals and drift snorkel off Coral Bay, where you'll discover reef sharks, sea turtles and pristine coral less than 20 feet off the shoreline.

**Amenities:** A stay at Sal Salis is about getting back to basics and forgetting the outside world. (Seriously—there's no cell service or wifi here). Amenities include the sunset, ocean and an excellent library full of nature books so you can ID that freaky-looking fish you saw.

**Certifications:** The resort doesn't run its own dive program, but can help organize PADI certifications through locally operated businesses in nearby Exmouth, such as [Dive Ningaloo](#) and [Exmouth Dive and Whale Sharks Ningaloo](#).

**Gear:** Sal Salis provides guests with wetsuits and all snorkelling gear free of charge. You'll need to bring along the rest of your equipment or rent it from one of the local dive shops.



*Alexandra Owens*

**Pricing:** As of 2024, one night at Sal Salis costs \$656 during the low seasons (3/1/2024 - 3/31/2024 and 10/9/2024 - 11/11/2024), \$860 during the shoulder season (7/29/2024 - 10/8/2024) and \$933 during the high season (4/1/2024 - 7/28/2024). These flexible rates are based on double occupancy in a standard wilderness tent and includes all meals and beverages, and many activities, such as guided walks, snorkelling tours, kayaking and paddle boarding. You will receive a significant discount for purchasing your room in advance.

**Getting There:** Sal Salis is located roughly one hour's drive from Exmouth town and neighbouring Learmonth Airport. Qantas flies daily to Exmouth from Perth, the capital of Western Australia. If you choose not to rent a car (which is highly recommended in this remote area) guests can pre-book a shared road transfer through Sal Salis for \$100 per person one way. Another option is to drive to camp from Perth; the 13-hour road trip along Australia's [Coral Coast Highway](#) is one of the most popular in the country. If you're on a tight timeline—and can afford it—consider chartering a private plane or helicopter to the historic Yardie Creek Station airstrip that's just 20 minutes from camp.

### **Dive Boat Fire Safety**

May 1, 2020 By Guy Thomas, DMT, and Francois Burman, Pr.Eng., M.Sc.

While dive boat passengers and crew members should take steps to eliminate potential causes of fire, one may still happen. Photograph by Stephen Frink

Two recent tragic boat fires in popular dive regions have once again illustrated that not all accidents happen during a dive. Although it appears that the fires started similarly, it will require in-depth investigations by the authorities to determine the actual causes. What both accidents have in common is that there were casualties and the fires started at night.

Many divers wonder how to protect themselves against something over which they have little control. This article provides some background and advice to travellers who intend to take a dive boat excursion.



## Vessel Fire Safety

While rare, fires on dive boats can start from a variety of causes, including gas leaks, electrical faults and ignition of volatile fluids.

Boat owners are usually required to comply with local laws and regulations governing fire safety. They are also responsible for performing a fire risk assessment that focuses on possible causes, locations and the spread of fires. They need to mitigate the risk factors and develop and implement emergency action plans, including regular fire drills.

### Passengers should consider the following:



- Insist on a safety briefing, which includes life-jacket stowage instructions and what you should do in case of a fire.
- Check that escape routes and emergency exits are accessible and useable. Familiarize yourself with the operation of any doors or hatches, especially for accommodations that are below deck.
- Confirm that there are accessible and inspected portable extinguishers or some form of central overhead fire deluge system.
- Check if fire alarms and detectors for flames, smoke and carbon monoxide are installed and working, and ask when they were last tested.
- Find out if the staff maintains a watch system on board. A crew member should be awake and on duty at all times to respond to emergencies and ensure boat safety. Know where to find this person. If you notice that they are asleep or not present, wake them up or find any available crew member. The lack of a watch is a serious matter that you should report to the crew member in charge or even the captain, depending on the size of the vessel. A watch system is especially important for fire safety, and it might be a Coast Guard requirement, depending on the location.

**Evacuation Procedures** - A fire can spread quickly. Smoke can swiftly reduce visibility to zero, and the toxins in the smoke can rapidly debilitate anyone. The heat generated can cause significant burns and prevent access to exits. Most victims in a fire succumb to smoke inhalation rather than burn injuries. As soon as a fire is detected, everyone should react immediately and appropriately.

Wake others, or activate the fire alarm as soon as you notice any fire or smoke.

Don't lose time searching for personal belongings. Even 30 seconds can make the difference between life and death.

Remain calm.

Don't take suitcases or bags with you. They can hinder you and block the escape routes, making evacuation difficult or impossible for you and others.

Help others during evacuation where possible and safe.

Follow the crew's instructions. They should be trained and equipped to contain a fire, rescue passengers and ensure your safety.

If you see a fire inside a room, avoid opening any door or window. Fresh air adds oxygen and will rekindle a fire or increase its development and intensity.

**Never** re-enter a vessel that is on fire.



## Other Considerations

Fires are a rare occurrence, but the consequences may be dire and often fatal. Consider the following suggestions when traveling:

- Fire safety education and training in emergency procedures will be useful when dealing with a fire and help you to keep calm and remain focused.
- Keep a small (waterproof if on a boat) bag or container next to your bed. It should be just big enough to hold your passport, wallet and any medications you might need, but small enough that it won't limit your movements or slow down the evacuation.
- If you wear glasses, keep them within reach so you don't lose time looking for them during an evacuation.
- Do not charge batteries from flashlights, cameras (especially video cameras and lights), scooters and other large power consumers or charge devices such as a laptop, tablet or cellphone in your cabin when you are not there or while you're sleeping. This is especially important if there is no smoke alarm.
- Do not overload an electrical outlet with too many devices. This can lead to overheated extension cords, adapters or power strips, or it can cause an electrical overload, either of which can cause a fire.
- Pay special attention to your surroundings when smoking on board a dive boat. Flammable materials such as fuel, cleaning solvents and compressed oxygen are often present in restricted areas.
- Since the recent boat fires, some divers are purchasing portable carbon monoxide or smoke monitors for use in their cabins.
- If you are concerned about fire or smoke emergencies, consider bringing a small portable smoke hood to protect your eyes and lungs. Boat owners should consider providing them on board as well.



*Knowledge of the vessel and its safety preparations and procedures, as well as personal preparations, will help ensure the safety of everyone on board.*

If you are traveling to dive, remember that fire risk is a concern not only while you are on the boat but also when you are in hotels or visiting dive centres. Fire safety and preparedness are important throughout your trip, both on board and onshore.

### **A diver dad joke or two.**

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Ten-tickles.  
Two goldfish are in a tank. One says to the other, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"  
Why do crabs never give to charity? Because they're shellfish creatures!  
Why did the octopus beat the shark in a fight? Because it was well armed.  
To some it seems strange that scuba divers fall backwards in the water,  
but if they fall forwards they'd still be in the boat

Next page has a puzzle to help keep you occupied on that rainy day!



# WORDSEARCH

# GONE FISHING

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

B I T E L B T S W E I G H T G H T  
T R D V F S R A L U S L L H A B N  
U W E T L A K E O N M F T T S A C  
Z A K V R L B P A B R R L T L Y C  
H D I P I A E K G M O X E Y F A J  
H E P N I R W Q R U W W C T U N A  
S R E T C O F L T A I O N N E G C  
I S O H N D F Z A X H X E J U L K  
F D N N D O C K C W Q S C T O E K  
D G I P O Y R E K N I S I T E R H  
R M C A T C H E L U R E L R O O N  
O E F T D N J C E S M O C C O P I  
W S P I N N E R B L A A Y K E F B  
S F G E C U O T O Q I L E R X K B  
C T B N Q H G I X B G M M R F Q L  
D D O C S B U N S D D I I O T I E  
R D E E P S E A K M T F I T N S N

ANGLER	DOCK	NET	SINKER
BAIT	FIN	NIBBLE	SPINNER
BAY	FLY	PATIENCE	STREAM
BITE	GUT	PERCH	SWORDFISH
BOAT	HAT	PERMIT	TACKLE BOX
BREAM	HOOK	PIKE	TRAWL
CAST	LAKE	REEL	TROUT
CATCH	LICENCE	RIVER	TUNA
COD	LIMIT	ROD	WADERS
CORK	LINE	SALMON	WEIGHT
CREEK	LURE	SHARK	WET
DEEP SEA	MINNOW	SHORE	WORMS

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.**

