

### Welcome

Welcome to the first Tech Dive NZ newsletter of 2010, a fresh start to the New Year. We've got plenty to report on,

### Photo of the Month

Over Christmas, Matt and Cas took a trip to the Great Barrier Reef and engaged in their usual photo competition... whilst the jury is still out on the overall winner, we did really like this shot that Matt took!



Please keep the photos coming in – send them by email to [andy@techdivenz.com](mailto:andy@techdivenz.com). They don't have to be underwater shots; anything that's diving related is fine!

### Club Night

As we knew that quite a few people would still be away in early January, we kept the January club night very simple and returned to the Abbey for a quiet evening where those who were heading off to the Lermontov could barely keep their excitement under control!

In February, Mel will be organising a beach barbeque and dive on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, so bring along friends and family! We'll pick the location a little bit nearer the time and will try and find somewhere a little different.

We never intend to fill your in-box with emails you don't want. So if you'd rather not receive this, hit the reply button and ask us to remove you from our email list.

## What's Been Happening?

Since the last newsletter, we've packed in a huge amount of diving that started off with our Christmas dive and barbeque. There was a great turnout, and despite the murky weather it turned into a fine day. Along with the sausages on the barbeque, plenty of people managed not just one but two dives! Lee was on fire with collecting scallops, and Matt did a fantastic job of keeping things turning on the barbeque. And Mel? Well, if you weren't there then ask someone who was about Mel's volleyball skills that definitely caused a few heads to turn!



## HMNZS Waikato



Between the Christmas dive and Christmas itself, a few of us snuck off for an impromptu skive dive on HMNZS Waikato. Ben, Mike, Tony and Tim explored the wreck whilst Jamie and Andy took the opportunity to do some extended dives using rich nitrox mixes for accelerated decompression – the highlight of the two 90 minute dives was definitely squeezing down an air conditioning conduit to find a room that neither had been in to before. It just goes to show that technical diving isn't just about diving deep, it can be about extending your dive times in recreational limits. Thanks to Dive! Tutukaka for a great day! You can read the full trip report on the website: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/waikato221209.pdf>.

Early January also saw us back on the Waikato again, this time with a full boat. Jamie was teaching an Advanced Wreck Diver course for Chris and Tony in advance of their trip down to the Lermontov. Whilst Peter, Alex, James and Andy only planned for two dives, everyone else was in for the long haul. Chris and Tony certainly learnt loads about wreck penetration, but with their final course dive planned on the Lermontov you'll have to wait until the next newsletter to find out how they did! James and Andy indulged in some longer dives, with Andy enjoying having his own drysuit again. Mel and Mike have started creating an accurate map of the Waikato and we will be updating you on progress as we go over winter. Mike also wrote a fantastic trip report for the day, very detailed and well presented. Who says that engineers can't write? Next time, it will be Tim's turn and hopefully there won't be full of legal speak! Mike's report is on the website: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/waikato030110.pdf>.

## South Island Diving

As well as the trips to the wrecks, there's been plenty of other diving with Jamie, James and Mel having a dive in Blue Creek, a relatively unexplored cave system in the South Island, the Lermontov trip and the Riwaka trip. You'll be able to read about those in the next newsletter, but keep an eye on the trip reports page on the website if you can't wait that long!

### What's Coming Up?

The rest of the summer is certainly looking busy, with plenty of trips and courses filling up the months ahead. With day trips, liveaboard trips, wreck trips and scenic diving on offer, there is something to appeal to everyone! But don't forget, if there's something that you particularly want to do then drop us an email and we will ensure it gets arranged.

#### **Wrecks and Caves: 23/24<sup>th</sup> January**

Our next big weekend is the 23/24<sup>th</sup> January, where Jamie and Mel will be teaching Cavern courses on a liveaboard trip with Ocean Blue. The same weekend, Andy will be back on the Waikato teaching an Advanced Wreck course. At present, there is one space remaining on each course plus options for people to just come along and dive, so contact us for further details!



#### **Auckland Anniversary Weekend: 30<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February**

We've decided that Auckland Anniversary weekend is often a challenge for people to get out diving for all three days, so we'll be arranging some day events that people can come along to either one, two or three days. One of those days will be a photography competition with some great prizes, so dust off the camera and come along! We'll circulate the details as soon as they are finalised.

#### **Self Reliant Diver Course: February 1<sup>st</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

This is one of our most popular courses and normally an eye-opener for most people! This course will be running in Auckland, and will take you through proper dive planning, the use of redundant equipment – and most importantly of all, getting you to start thinking more about your diving! We had a very successful course in Wellington in December, so if you are interested the first port of call is the course report written by one of the students: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/articles/srd061209.pdf>.

#### **Special Tech Weekend at the Cowshed: 18-21<sup>st</sup> February**

February is a big month for technical diving, as it's currently looking like there will be three GUE instructors in one place – and that place is the Cowshed between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Liam Allen will be in the country teaching the first Tech 1 that has ever taken place in New Zealand. Liam is not only a GUE Tech 1 instructor, but also an instructor trainer and has been awarded GUE instructor of the year for 2009. Whilst it's not yet confirmed, it looks like we will also be joined by Steve Trewavas. A Kiwi by birth, Steve is based in Australia and is in the final stages of becoming a GUE Cave instructor. With Liam, Steve and Jamie in one place this is a great opportunity to come along and pick the brains of some of the top instructors.

Looking ahead, March is just as busy, with a cavern course and a Poor Knights liveaboard, an Advanced Wreck weekend and the "SRD Big Day Out" at Taupo. The Self Reliant Diver course is unique to us, and this weekend will be for people who have done the course, to meet up, have some dives in Lake Taupo and of course the drift dive down the river. If you want to come along and haven't done the course, then there's enough time to do it between now and then!

## Tips and Techniques

Buoyancy control is all about practice, but thinking about what you doing will help you get better, particularly during ascents. Always dump gas before you feel the kit pulling at you. If you go up, even a metre you know you'll need to dump, predicting/expecting makes everything smoother; little and often will give you greater control. Your first thought if you start rising or falling quickly should be a big breath in or out to give you time to resolve the issue. And don't forget, you can practise on all ascents – try to float by the line, by your buddies who are holding it.

## Test Your Knowledge

We've decided to start including short quizzes in each newsletter for you to test your knowledge about different aspects of diving. As we're running a big trip to the Lermontov next month, we thought we'd theme our first quiz on different wrecks around the world and wreck diving techniques. Have a go at the quiz, when you're ready to find out how well you did you can check the answers on the website: <http://www.techdivenz.com/quizzes.html>.

1. In what year were all nitrox training providers banned from the DEMA show? (Nitrox was viewed as a very dangerous gas that was unsafe for recreational divers!)?
2. What is the partial pressure of EAN32 at 27m of sea water?
3. What gas is commonly used to reduce the effects of nitrogen narcosis on deeper dives?
4. True or False. Using nitrox allows you to extend your dive time at a given depth because it gives you longer no-decompression limits.
5. Hydreliox is a mixture of what three gasses?
6. True or False. Accelerated decompression uses nitrox mixes with high percentages of oxygen because more oxygen aids the offgassing of nitrogen.
7. In what year was helium first suggest as an option for reducing nitrogen narcosis?
8. What is the maximum operating depth of EAN32?
9. What are the GUE standard gasses for a Tech 1 course?
10. What is the Equivalent Narcotic Depth for a gas containing 40% helium being used at 60 metres?

## Dive Trips

You can keep track of our planned dive trips on the website, but each month we'll provide you with a reminded of what we've got planned. Here's what we've got planned over the next couple of months, so get in touch if you'd like to come along on one of these:

<i>Trip</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Poor Knights Liveaboard	23-25 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Cavern Special	Mel
Tutukaka Wrecks	23-24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Advanced Wreck course	Andy
Auckland Anniversary	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan -1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Tell us where you want to go!	Mel

Volkner Rocks	5-7th Feb	Full! Contact us if you would like to be placed on the reserve list.	Jamie
Poor Knights	13-14th Feb		Mel
Northland Diving	18-21 <sup>st</sup> Feb		Mel
Poor Knights Liveaboard	6-8 <sup>th</sup> March	Cavern Special	Jamie

If there's anywhere you particularly want to go diving, either let Andy ([andy@techdivenz.com](mailto:andy@techdivenz.com)), Jamie ([jamie@techdivenz.com](mailto:jamie@techdivenz.com)) or Mel ([mel@techdivenz.com](mailto:mel@techdivenz.com)) know and we will help arrange the trip.

## Dive Courses

There are lots of courses to look forward to, for which the dates are:

<i>Course</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
PADI Advanced Wreck	January 19 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> (evenings), 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Auckland/Tutukaka	Andy
PADI Cavern	January 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Poor Knights (Ocean Blue Liveaboard)	Jamie
GUE Fundamentals	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> (evenings), 30 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup> and February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Auckland	Jamie
PADI Self Reliant Diver	February 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> (evenings), 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Auckland	Andy
PADI Self Reliant Diver	February 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> (evenings), 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Auckland	Andy

If you are interested in any of these courses then get in touch with the instructor for the course.

## And Now for Something Completely Different...

Following on from our Christmas theme, this month we have another aquarium story... and it links in to Christmas because of the brussel sprouts! A UK aquarium has taken action to prevent flatulence from a Brussels sprout-eating turtle, George, from triggering overflow alarms.

The Great Yarmouth Sea Life Centre has lowered the water level in the green turtle's tank after giving George a seasonal treat of Brussel sprouts at Christmas to provide a healthy dose of vitamins, minerals and fibre. But turtles, like humans, are prone to heavy bouts of flatulence after eating the vegetables – and George triggered overflow alarms in the middle of the night after the splashes from gassy bubbles hit the sensors. You never would have thought, would you????

