

**July 2009**

It's been a busy few weeks since our last newsletter, with plenty of dive trips and training going on. It may well be the middle of winter, but that just means that visibility gets better and the charter boats are less busy!

## **Photo of the Month**

We're kicking off a new feature in this newsletter, "Photo of the Month". If you are out taking photos and get a shot you'd like to share then send it to me by email ([andy@techdivenz.com](mailto:andy@techdivenz.com)) and Jamie and I will pick the best shot for inclusion in the newsletter. This month, we have a shot by Richard Robinson from our July "Skive Dive" to the Poor Knights...



## **What's Been Happening?**

Highlights of the last month include Jamie conducting the first GUE Fundamentals course as a New Zealand based GUE instructor. Rob, Tom and Mike had a blast as students as they were put through their paces and congratulations to all three who passed with flying colours!

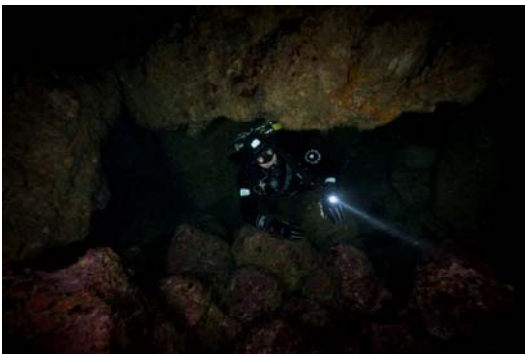
We've had a number of dive trips away, including a trip to Lake Taupo – last time Jamie and I were there, we were too busy doing our TDI



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instructor course that we didn't get much time to explore. We certainly rectified that this time, with some memorable exploration dives in the lake on Saturday, followed on the Sunday with a drift dive down the Waikato River. This has got to be a "must do" dive for everyone, letting the current do all the hard work and carrying you through stunning underwater gorges and then exhilaratingly zooming you through shallower sections is great fun! For those who missed the trip in June, we're planning another one in October.



We also held our inaugural "skive dive", and though the weather wasn't great we managed to snatch two dives at the Poor Knights from the teeth of the storm. It's definitely true that the water is warmer and the visibility better during the week! We'll be organising many more skive dives to come, with the next dive being a night dive on HMNZS Waikato, followed the next day by three dives at the Poor Knights. After that, we'll be going further afield to the Alderman Islands, Gannet Island and many more, so keep an eye on the website for details.

## What's Coming Up?

Looking forward over the next few months, there's plenty to look forward to, starting with the "Submerged" gala evening on the August 6<sup>th</sup> at the Flagstaff Gallery in Devonport. "Submerged" is a exhibition of underwater photography by Richard Robinson, Ian Skipworth, Pete Mesley and Andrew Simpson; all of whom are great photographers. The gala evening includes drinks and nibbles, but it's likely that after it finishes that we'll be retiring to the Abbey for the rest of the evening. We'll be arranging some form of social gathering every month from August onwards, on the first Thursday of the month. Whilst as often as not we'll end up at the Abbey, when it comes to summer we'll be thinking of local shore dives and a barbeque to follow!

At the end of August, we were hoping to spend the weekend at the Cowshed – but Shane and Julia are actually taking their winter holiday at that time, so instead we'll probably be arranging a weekend at the Aldermans which is close enough that if you're limited for time then you can just head down to join us for a day, so there's no excuse for not diving! If you're interested in getting out to the Aldermans, let either myself, Jamie or Mel know. Further ahead in September, we've got dates set aside for a TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression Procedures course that still has spaces.

## Dive Trips

You can keep track of our planned dive trips on the website ([www.techdivenz.com/trips.html](http://www.techdivenz.com/trips.html)), 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:

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- HMNZS Waikato Night Dive, 18th August 2009
- Poor Knights “Skive Dive” (3 dive day), 19th August 2009
- Alderman Islands, 29-30th August 2009
- Solomon Islands, 6-13th September 2009
- Riwaka, 12th September 2009
- Lake Taupo and Waikato River Drift Dive, 3-4th October 2009
- Matai Bay, 24-26th October 2009

If there's anywhere you particularly want to go diving, either let myself, Jamie or Mel know and we will help arrange the trip.

## Dive Courses

Our scheduled classes are also on the website ([www.techdivenz.com/schedule.html](http://www.techdivenz.com/schedule.html)), though most of our courses are now full! For people interested in getting in to technical diving, there are spaces on our TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression Procedures course in September, and we're also looking to arrange some Cavern and Wreck courses before the end of the year.

## Tips and Techniques

Another new feature for our newsletter is the tips and techniques section. Each month, Jamie or myself will be giving out an idea to help you improve your dive skills or help you learn something new. This month, we're talking about trim. People often comment that “we make it look easy”, but there is no easy way to get there. Whilst being able to control your trim is partly about having the right equipment for you, it's mostly about practice. But practice doesn't mean hours spent in the pool, it's easy to incorporate practice into your normal diving and still have fun! Make a commitment to doing your safety stops in a horizontal position, and focus on using your breathing to maintain your position. It won't take long until you see an improvement, and not long after that people will be asking you how you make it look so easy.

## And Now for Something Completely Different...

If you've ever turned up at Lake Pupuke hoping for a quiet training dive, and found several dive shops all training on the same day then spare a thought for anyone who turned up at Gilboa Quarry in the US on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, unaware that a world record attempt was being made for the most number of divers submerged at any one time. The current record of 958 divers was set in the Maldive Islands in 2006, and the Guinness Book of Records define the criteria as all divers being submerged for at least 1 minute. The organisers had hoped to smash the record with 1500 divers, but only 794 turned up on the day. Now, with the British having smashed the underwater ironing record earlier this year with 86 divers, maybe there's the option for some enterprising Kiwis to take two Guinness records at once?

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