

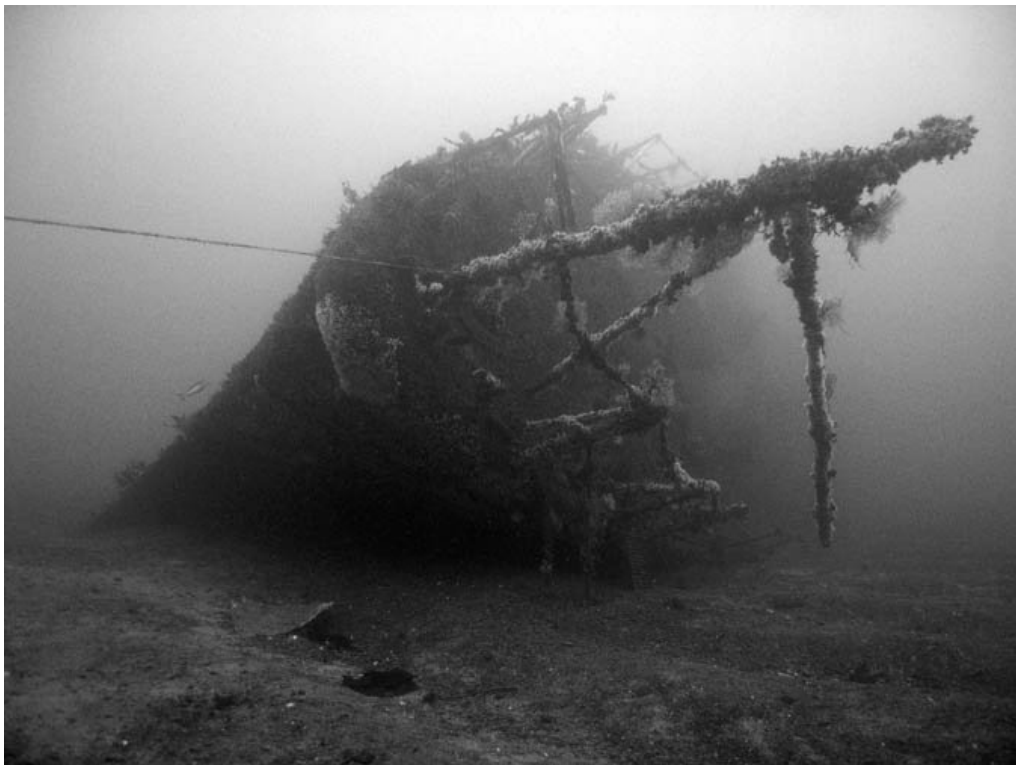
Welcome

Welcome to the May Tech Dive NZ newsletter. When we wrote last months newsletter we were just starting to think that maybe things were getting quieter with winter approaching, but in fact it's been a monster month of diving for us! We've been actively involved in a major underwater search, a mapping project, an international marketing campaign and a secret squirrel mission, as well as our usual trimix, cave and wreck diving, plus plenty of other recreational diving as well.

And we've had one of the best weekends diving of the year – with visibility at the Poor Knights and the HMNZS Waikato of 30m+. Can you imagine lying on the seabed by the bow of the wreck and looking up to the surface to see the splashes made by the other divers jumping off the boat? This is the stuff that diving legends are made of - awesome. And apologies if you think we're crowing a bit too much, but we've also had shark and turtle sightings as well – and all in 19 degree water temps. What a fabulous month!

Photo of the Month

Following our introduction this month's photo was taken by Andy and shows the bow of the HMNZS Waikato, on the day where the visibility was simply spectacular – and if you want to know how good the vis was, well this shot was taken without the aid of a tripod!



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

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.

Last month's caption competition

Here are the best entries from last month's caption competition.



This is what happens when fart at your friend's house too often.

I don't remember the emergency procedure for this being covered in my dry-suit course.

The NZ Police force practicing traffic direction in the event of a chemical weapons attack.

Another cheap-as-a-diver tries to avoid paying for a hood and some gloves.

I saw guys making a living doing this in Covent Garden – I see no reason it won't work in the Viaduct.

My doctor said I had to stay out of the water to avoid ear infections.

Is this really how rebreather divers do it?

Club Night

Our May club evening was supposed to be a mixture of the riotous and the relaxing, with a trip to the Waiwera Hot Springs, but things didn't exactly go according to plan. Despite ringing up only a couple of days earlier to confirm that everything was open, when we arrived we discovered that all of the slides were closed. Thankfully we were quite early and after some hasty phone calls and rearranging we went 10 pin bowling instead. It wasn't quite the evening we had scheduled but a good time was still had by all – especially by Mike who won both games – claiming that he had never bowled before.

Our June the club evening will be held at the Horse and Trap in Mt Eden (3 Enfield St.) on Thursday 3rd June. This will probably be a somewhat more sedate affair than Waiwera promised us, although Cas can get pretty boisterous after a few beers. If you fancy joining us for some drinks and lots of diving talk (do divers ever do anything else) then we'll be there from 6pm onwards.

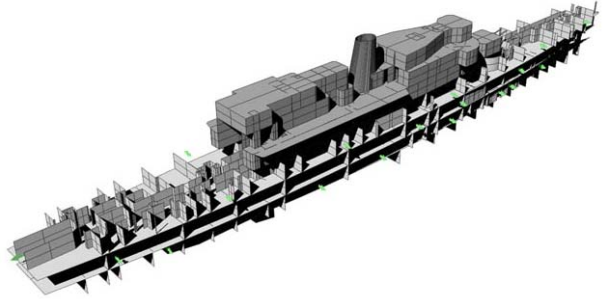
What's Been Happening?

It has been a mammoth month of diving for us since the last newsletter - so before you start reading the next bit you might want to go and get another cup of tea or coffee and make yourself comfortable! As usual the full write ups for each event can be found on our website, but here is just a taste of what we've been up to:

HMNZS Waikato mapping project – ongoing

Doing training courses is a great way to learn new skills but if you don't go diving afterwards you will soon lose all those skills. Partly for that reason (and also because we're always looking for excuses to do more diving) a group of us came up with the idea of a mapping project on the HMNZS Waikato wreck. We had three main reasons for this: Firstly when the wreck was initially sunk proper plans were not made of all the changes and alterations. Secondly after so much time underwater the wreck has changed and deformed. Thirdly this year marks 10 years since the sinking. Of course all good projects need a project director and Mike Smith boldly stepped forward. And the rest as they say is history.

Mike and various helpers have been hard at work over the last few months drawing and redrawing plans, checking and rechecking their work on dive after dive and even putting all their results into 3D mapping software. Mike and the team have made some huge progress, but they have lots more to do if they are going to complete it all by the November deadline – the ship was sunk on 25th November. So if you are interested in helping out please email us at info@techdivenz.com.



HMNZS Waikato anchor hunt – 24th April

The opportunity for proper search and recovery missions do not come up often so when Kate at Dive! Tutukaka said that they would like to be able to unveil the Waikato anchor at the 10th anniversary of the sinking this year, we were definitely keen. With the help of an underwater metal detector and outstanding visibility, we soon made great progress but digging in the sand at 30m was not ideal for someone with Mel's tolerance to narcosis! To read the rest of this trip report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/PKAnchor240410.pdf>.

Trimix trip – 25th April

Whenever I dive deeper at the Poor Knights the visibility gets better. Even on days when the visibility is awesome in the shallows it is still more awesome at depth – and whilst that isn't the only reason to go deep it does make for a superb experience. This Anzac Day at the Knights was no exception – at 45m I could clearly see the surface and the fish life cruising along the wall above me – I was buzzing even without narcosis! To read the rest of this trip report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/PKTrimix250410.pdf>

Cave diving talk and video presentation – Global Dive – 26th April

At the Global Dive April club evening Jamie gave a presentation on cave diving, which included video footage from the UK, Florida and New Zealand. The event was extremely well attended – in fact in terms of number of attendees it was a record for a Global Dive club evening – with the lecture room upstairs strained to capacity. We think Jamie's aim was to try to persuade people that cave diving can be awesomely beautiful and not particularly dangerous – but with the mud squeezing video to start and the Blue Creek video to finish he didn't really manage that task very well. Still everyone seemed to have a good time and a few people have signed up for cavern classes as a result, although there are still a few spots available.

Advanced wreck course – 30th April & 3rd May



As an instructor you are always looking for ways to improve the courses you teach and I think I may have found one – run line laying workshops in the dark. Now I know that sounds strange, but students doing line laying practice on land during the day always forget one important factor, when they do it for real underwater in the overhead environment it is usually dark and therefore as well as the reel they will also have a torch in their

hands. I know it doesn't sound like much, but just like the tale about the straw and the camel's back there is always a tipping point... To read the rest of this trip report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/articles/advwreck030510.pdf>

Entirely World Famous – 1st & 2nd May

There are some bum jobs and there are some plum jobs – this one definitely falls into the latter category. How do you fancy a three month all expenses paid tour of NZ? You will have to go bungy jumping, white water rafting, diving, trekking, sky-diving, canoeing, wine tasting and more. The only catch is that after each incredible experience you have to do a short write up. Want to know where to sign up? To read the rest of this report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/pk020510.pdf>.

Stealth mission – 3rd May

Those of you who are avid readers of our trip reports will recall a short write up I did back in November last year, where I hinted at a brilliant idea we stumbled across after a few too many beers one evening. I didn't say what the idea was, nor do I intend to now as we are still in the development stage, but what I can say is that phase 3 has just been completed successfully. And phase 4 will be happening shortly. To read the rest of this trip report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/stealth030510.pdf>



Auckland University 'Tec' Open Water course – March

Of course if I'd learned from day 1 in a backplate and wing it would have been different. New divers accept that they have to learn how everything works and somehow learning is much easier than re-learning. Without habits to break new divers just watch how something is demonstrated and copy it. They don't expect the D-rings to be anywhere else or have any preconceived idea of how to get in and out of kit. In short having watched now my students learn from the start in a backplate and wing I wish I'd learned that way from the start too. To read the rest of this report just follow the link: <http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/articles/ow280310.pdf>.

DSAT Tec 40 course

This is a new course for us so last week Jamie, Andy and Mel crept off to do a trial run – nothing competes with running an actual course as a way to iron out all the bugs. Thankfully our initial planning estimate wasn't too far away from what actually happened so we are now ready to run this course for everyone. Keep an eye out on our website for a new flyer with all the details.

Twin Tanks workshop – 5th May



Andy has given four more aspiring technical divers an introduction to twin tanks, with an evening session at the Olympic Pool. Tim, Chris, Mike and Tony got to try out different set ups – adjustable and non adjustable wings, steel and ali backplates, different size tanks – and all got put through their paces with exercises to test buoyancy and control. The next step is an open water dive. If you are interested in finding out more about twin tank diving, drop us an email: info@techdivenz.com

Latest Tech Dive NZ staff news

Andy and James are now officially GUE Instructor Interns – preparing for Australia in October. Jamie and Andy have now been fully signed off to teach the DSAT Tec40 course. Jamie has been signed off to teach GUE Rec 3 (an introductory trimix course).

In next months newsletter

Next month we'll be bringing you the full details of what exactly Andy and James will be doing to earn their coveted GUE Instructor rating, giving a run down of the brand new GUE Rec 3 course and providing you with the details of a very exciting dive project we have planned for this winter. And we'll give you the details of our brand new referral scheme and satisfaction guarantee.

What's Coming Up?

There is always a lot going on at Tech Dive NZ, some activities planned many months in advance and some almost on the spur of the moment. If you want to be involved then make sure you keep up to date with this newsletter, or better still check out our website or Facebook page. We always try to offer a range of activities to suit different tastes, but that said we don't believe we're perfect (well nearly), so if there is a location you'd love to dive please contact us. The chances are that we're already thinking about it!

Maori Pa dive

This is advance warning of a dive we're planning for this winter, which was originally scheduled for last year but delayed when the boat operator changed hands. No date has been set yet, but we don't want you to miss out if you're keen. In Lake Okataina there is a submerged Maori Pa site which we are planning to visit. If you are interested in New Zealand history or underwater archaeology then this is a must-not-miss trip, or if you simply want to do something completely different. Please let Andy know if you are interested. (*Andy already has enough people interested to run this trip and will be setting dates soon – let him know asap if you don't want to miss out.*) andy@techdivenz.com

Shark cage diving

New Zealand is starting to get a reputation as a great destination for shark diving, with shark cage operators now well established in both the Hawkes Bay area and Invercargill/Stewart Island areas. We are thinking about organising a club trip and want to see how much interest there is. Please let Mel know if you are interested in doing a shark dive and she will make sure you get to come along. mel@techdivenz.com

Lake Waikaremoana

Back in the late 19th Century during the Maori Wars Lake Waikaremoana was part of the front line between Chief Te Kooti and the British Army. Nowadays it is a far more peaceful location, although there are still some reminders of the old war if you know where to look. In relatively shallow water the remains of one of the old boats built for the war still exists and we want to go and have a look. Plus as an added bonus we can also do another very unique dive exploring an old petrified forest – now that's definitely something most people don't have in their log-books. No date has been set yet but if you are interested please let Jamie know so he can keep you informed. jamie@techdivenz.com

Mikhail Lermontov – 2 more trips in 2010!

Come and dive with us as we explore one of the largest dive-able shipwrecks in the world! Following the success of our January and April expeditions we have organised two more 4-day trips to this colossal wreck. Spaces are going fast, so book in now. Visit the cinema or library, check out the bridge and officers quarters, be amazed by the enormous engine room, slide into one of the bars or even swim past the swimming pool. This wreck has it all! Contact Mel for further details: mel@techdivenz.com

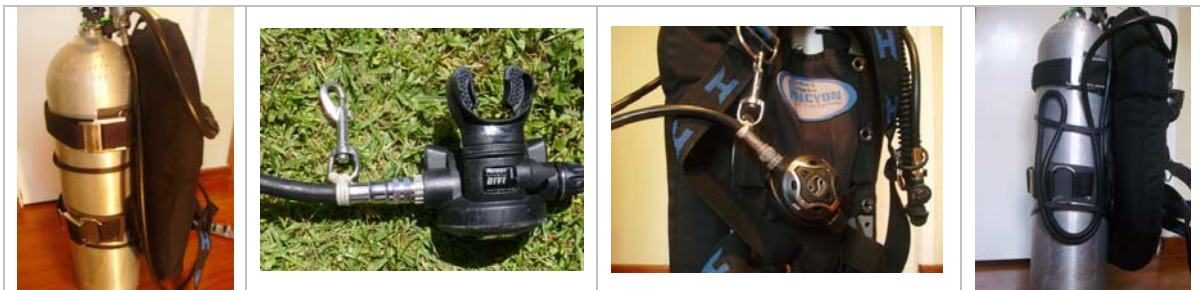
Trimix Tuesdays

We now have a big enough group of qualified divers to justify chartering a boat mid-week specifically for deeper dives. Also now that Andy our hard working(?) university lecturer has his calendar for the next semester we can start to plan these trips. If you are interested in joining us for these deeper dives (and you have the appropriate qualifications), please contact us for details.

Tips and Techniques – Managing the long hose

Use of a long hose (1.5 or 2m) on the primary regulator is becoming increasingly popular amongst the diving community, but using a long hose successfully requires more than just swapping it for your old hose. Here are a few tips to make life easier.

1. When you attach the hose to the first stage make sure that it is located in a port that will face downwards when the reg is attached to the cylinder, as that ensures a neat hose routing.
2. Attach a bolt-snap by the second stage. Locate the clip within a hands width of the second stage so that the snap is in your hand when you remove the reg from your mouth.
3. Whenever the reg is out of your mouth it should be clipped off to a D-ring on your shoulder. This will help prevent damage to the reg.
4. There are two options for managing the loose hose when diving. The preferred option is that the hose routes down to your waist, under your right arm, under your can light (or knife), up across your chest and round behind your head; alternatively use bungies to hold the slack hose neatly against the tank.
5. When you kit up always do a final check that the long hose is not caught under your waist strap.



Whatever you do make sure that you manage your long hose, otherwise instead of making your diving safer it will become an entanglement hazard. Happy diving.

Test Your Knowledge

The theme for this month's quiz is legendary figures of the underwater world. Can you match up the names on the left with the mixed up list on the right which details what they are famous for? Have a go and 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>

Augustus Siebe	Wrote 'The Compleat Goggler'
Bill Main	Commander of the Calypso
Don Walsh & Jacques Piccard	Produced first decompression tables
Guy Gilpatric	NZ diving icon
Jack Sheppard	Wrote 'Oxygen and the Diver'
Jacques-Yves Cousteau	Founder of Aquacorps magazine
John Scott Haldane	Hogarthian equipment set up named after this man
Kelly Tarlton	Only human visit the bottom of the Mariana Trench
Kenneth Donald	Did the first UK cave dive in 1934
Michael Menduno	Designer of Royal Navy Standard Diving Dress

Dive Trips

You can use the website to keep track of our dive trips, but just in case you forget in each newsletter we'll also provide you with a reminder of what we've got planned. Here's what's on offer over the next couple of months – please get in touch if you'd like to come along on one of these trips:

<i>Trip</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Poor Knights Live-aboard	May 22 nd , 23 rd & 24 th	Andy
Taupo or Poor Knights (dependant on TDI course)	June 19 th & 20 th	Andy
Mikhail Lermontov	October 2 nd - 5 th	Mel
Mikhail Lermontov	October 7 th – 10 th	Mel
Riwaka Resurgence	October 11 th	Mel
Lake Okataina	TBC	Andy
Shark cage diving	TBC	Mel
Lake Waikaremoana	TBC	Jamie

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

Dive Courses

Here is a list of the main courses coming up in the next few months, but for a full list please check out the calendar on our website: <http://www.techdivenz.com/calendar.html>

<i>Course</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Location</i>
GUE Fundamentals	June 4 th to 7 th	Auckland
PADI Self Reliant Diver	June 5 th to 7 th	Auckland
TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression Procedures	June 12 th , 13 th , 19 th & 20 th	Auckland/Taupo
PADI Cavern (live-aboard)	Sept 10 th to 12 th	Pook Knights
GUE Tech 2	Sept 22 nd to 27 th	Auckland/Cowshed

If you are interested in any of these courses then get in touch with mel@techdivenz.com.

And Now for Something Completely Different...

Don't panic if you're trying to find the perfect person to share your life with - there really is somebody for everybody! Lonely Gladys a Giant Gourami fish, nicknamed the 'ugly fish' at Bristol Zoo, finally has a mate after 4 years alone. Apparently a 'very charismatic' male Gourami called Gerry has recently been introduced to Gladys and the pair are reported to be getting along wonderfully. I just wonder what the kids will look like, but then don't all parents think their babies are the most beautiful in the world.....

