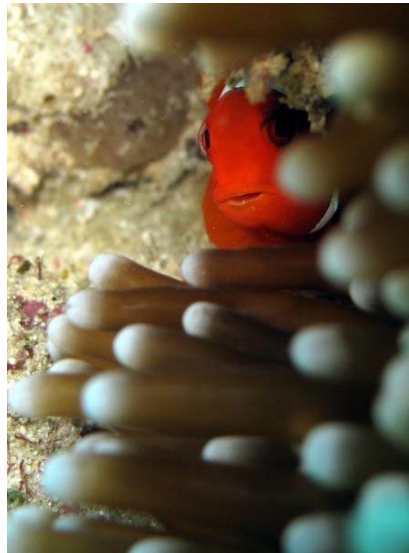


### Welcome

Welcome to the Tech Dive NZ September newsletter. As we're expecting water temperatures to creep up from now on, it's time to dust off your dive gear, get everything serviced and get out there and do some diving!

### Photo of the Month

It's been a tough decision this month, with photos submitted from as far afield as Sodwana Bay in Africa and from the Soloman Islands. After much deliberation, we picked this photo by Cas.



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!

### What's Been Happening?

It's been a fairly busy month since the last newsletter, with a GUE Fundamentals course completed in Auckland and a number of dive trips to places both far and near. Congratulations to Ali, Kathryn and Lizzie who completed the first female only GUE Fundamentals course in NZ, which was quite possible the first ever all female technical diving course in the country (apart from Jamie, of course!) Jamie wasn't quite too sure how it was going to go – Ali and Kathryn are members of the Auckland Uni Underwater Club, just as are Mike and Tom who completed the course last month. When setting up both courses, he was specifically asked for a separate all female course because “the boys will be too boy-like, they'll be far too serious”. How did it go? Well you can read more about the course on the website by clicking on this link: [www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/courses/guef100909.pdf](http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/courses/guef100909.pdf).

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In terms of trips, bad weather foiled Andy's attempt to dive the wreck of the Arabia, which sank in Lake Huron in Canada 125 years ago – definitely a long way to go to not get to dive, but he's come back keen as ever to arrange some trips to various wrecks, and has started looking at the logistics for a trip to the Empress of Ireland, which ranks as one of the world's best wreck dives.

Jamie had much more successful trips, which included a four day liveaboard trip to the Mikhail Lermontov and a side trip to dive the Riwaka Resurgence with James. One of these trips caused James to comment "Oh man this is really addictive!" – both trips were so good that it's inspired us to start looking at arranging our own trip in January which will give people a chance to dive both the "Rusty Rusky" and Riwaka to find out for themselves which is the most addictive!



Mel and Cas also had a great trip to the Solomans, which included a couple of dives on the USS Aaron Ward, the only diveable US Navy destroyer lost in action. Despite her previous protests that she "didn't want to go tech", there's evidence that Cas was getting in to the spirit of deep wreck diving – you can read more about it by clicking on the link: [www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/130909.pdf](http://www.techdivenz.com/pdfs/trips/130909.pdf).

All of our trip reports are available on the website, and hopefully they'll give you an idea for different places to dive or different things to do at places you know well. To see all of our trip reports, click on this link: [www.techdivenz.com/reports.html](http://www.techdivenz.com/reports.html).

### What's Coming Up?

October looks set to be another busy month, with courses and trips scheduled in the calendar. If you haven't seen the calendar ([www.techdivenz.com/calendar.html](http://www.techdivenz.com/calendar.html)) on the website, this is probably the easiest way to keep up to date with what's coming up. In the next week or two, we should have a range of trips and courses detailed for the whole summer – so print off the next few months and stick the pages on your fridge! We'll also be keeping our Facebook page up to date with this information, so if you're a Facebook user then become a fan of Tech Dive NZ.

There are dive trips aplenty in October, starting with our trip down to Lake Taupo. And Jamie is teaching another GUE Fundamentals course that is already full! Be sure to get in quick for the next course dates, as this course is proving to be very popular and fills up fast. With both Jamie and myself having had time away this month, there was no "skive dive" in September, but that's being corrected for October. We were hoping to plan a "skive dive" for the 14<sup>th</sup> October, but it looks like this will be postponed as Jamie will be hosting a visit by Casey McKinlay at that time. Casey is the project director of the Woodville Karst Plain Project, and one of the most accomplished cave divers around. So hopefully we'll be forgiven! At this stage we are now looking to arrange the "skive dive" on the 21<sup>st</sup> October, either heading out to the Alderman Islands or possible to Leigh Reef. This is a great

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opportunity to pin us down and pick our brains about technical diving, as we'll be planning some deeper and longer dives on that day and we'll be able to talk you through the gear and training required.

And don't forget that the first Thursday of each month is our social evening, so on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October we'll be back in the Abbey for the evening from around 6pm onward.

### 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:

- Lake Taupo and Waikato River Drift Dive, 3-4th October 2009
- October "Skive Dive", 21st October 2009
- HMNZS Waikato, 17-18th October 2009
- Matai Bay, 24-26th October 2009

With the Taupo weekend not too far away, it's time to think about accommodation if you're interested in joining us for what should be some great diving! The drift dive down the river is a must, so let one of us know if you're thinking of coming along and we'll keep you up to date on plans.

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

### Dive Courses

Our scheduled classes are also on the website though don't forget that we can schedule additional classes on demand! After Jamie's trip down to Riwaka, we'll be scheduling some Cavern Diver courses as a priority. In addition, we're ramping things up ready to start offering Advanced Wreck courses – if you're already diving wrecks and looking to learn more about safe wreck penetration then this is a perfect opportunity. You'll need to have completed a PADI Wreck Course before starting the Advanced Wreck Specialty, and our next wreck diving weekend on the 17-18th October is set aside to give people a chance to complete their PADI Wreck Course as well as getting more supervised experience of wreck diving.

### Tips and Techniques

If you've ever found that your wreck reel or spool is difficult to untie, then it's high time you got introduced to "the woodie". It's a simple idea, which once you've seen it seems so obvious that you ask yourself "Why didn't I think of that?". Generally, a primary tie off for a wreck or cave dive involves passing the reel through a large loop on the end of



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the line – once it's pulled tight it can become hard to undo, particularly in thick winter gloves. A woodie is just a small loop knotted into the end of a larger loop on your reel or spool. It makes removing a primary tie off so easy, you'll wonder how you ever managed with out it!

### **And Now for Something Completely Different...**

Who thought that the snorkel swim out to the buoy at Lake Pupuke was no fun? On August 31st more than 150 competitors from across the UK braved wind and rain in Wales to take part in the World Bog Snorkelling Championship. For the first time, Gorden Green, 74, the man who devised the event to help put the town of Llanwrtyd Wells on the tourist map, braved the elements himself. Now retired, he turned out in flippers, a mask and a snorkel to get down and dirty in one of two trenches dug into the bog outside the town. For competitors the ultimate aim is to cover two gruelling lengths of the bog, a total of 120 yards, in the fastest time. Competitors wear snorkels and flippers and are not allowed to use conventional swimming strokes. Bog snorkelling is a strange sport, but don't forget that the UK also gave rise to such wonderful sports as "cheese rolling" and the sheer brutality of "shin kicking"! Next time you've got a long surface swim, spare a few thoughts for those hardy souls competing to become the bog snorkelling world champion!



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