

Trip Report: HMNZS Waikato, 30/31st May 2009

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Despite less than favourable weather forecasts, the first Tech Dive NZ wreck course went ahead on the 30/31st May, thanks to the team at Dive! Tutukaka for helping us make it a great weekend. On both days, we were blessed with relatively light winds, not much surface chop and visibility in the 8-12m range. Perfect for diving the wreck!

The plan was to complete three dives on the Saturday, with Jamie providing experience tours through the wreck whilst Andy taught the wreck specialty course. For the students on the course, Rob and Chris, the goal of the first dive of the day was to undertake a survey of a segment of the wreck for later penetration and draw a map of possible entry points.



The surface interval gave us plenty of time to practice reel use, with Rob and Chris running lines along the inside of Bright Arrow practicing various tie off points and team practices for wreck penetration. The second dive of our day involved practicing this on the outside of the wreck

After finishing our deco on the first dive, we headed to a nearby beach for lunch provided by Northland Dive and a chance to talk about our dives and plan the second dive of the day. With most charters only offering one dive on the Warrior, we expected to have the wreck to ourselves which certainly helps when it comes to planning penetration dives. It was a great opportunity to spend some time in the more murky regions of the interior, and some took the opportunity to practice their line/reel use around the more confined sections of the interior of the stern of the ship.

Others preferred a more straightforward dive, with the main goal being taking photographs rather than penetrating the wreck and there was plenty of worthwhile subjects, both natural and models willing to pose for that perfect shot!

The day was a perfect end to an Easter weekend, an opportunity to revisit a special part of New Zealand's history; and again great diving with a great group of people.

