

# Spearfishing NZ



## Newsletter 77 - June 2010

### **STOP PRESS**

The Seaquel Mercury Bay Open Spearfishing Competition and Wette Photography competition were to be held this Sunday at Mercury Bay. However, due to deteriorating weather on Sunday we have been notified that both events and briefings have been moved forward one day to the Saturday. Prize giving will also be held Saturday night.

### **Clerical Chores**

Each mail out of Newsletters gets us half a dozen replies such as “mail box full,” “account disabled,” or “account no longer in use.” Where we have a phone number we ring the affected party and over the years have found individuals have simply forgotten to update us. That was so with some we phoned over the past week. Occasionally people have gone overseas. In some instances where a person’s address has been changed we have later been asked why we have stopped sending them Newsletters! Here are two names we have not been able to contact. Tim Flemmer, Rowan Ogg. If you know them check whether they still want Newsletters and if so can update us please.

### **Planning for Next Season’s Events**

The Committee has done preliminary work for Nationals 2011 at Tauranga Bay as well as being very engaged in discussions with some of our many sponsors of various events including Department of Conservation, Oceanhunter, Cressi, Beuchat, Kerikeri Dive HQ, and Wildblue. It was acknowledged in the last Newsletter that the welcome development of shop-based events as part of our Competition Schedule this year unfortunately combined with weather that played havoc for organisers of all events and meant that neither spearfishers, organisers, nor some sponsors got a fair go. We have been trying to rectify that for next season, particularly with those events that are not more or less permanent fixtures on the calendar like the South Island Champs at Waitangi weekend and Mercury Bay’s mid winter event at Queen’s Birthday weekend. We will be meeting further with organisers and sponsors of other events over the next 2 months so that an earlier schedule can be formalized before the 2010-2011 seasons get underway.

### **Wildblue Polespear Champs 22 May**

We are not sure whether the organiser of an event should be allowed to win it, but then Matt Lind did have the skills of his partner John Anderson to fall back on! Diving from RedQuarters around

Broken Islands at Great Barrier they managed 2 John Dory, 2 Trevally, 2 Snapper, and 1 Kahawai. It is a significantly more testing event with a Polespear than using a 1.2m gun!

### **The Value of Wetsuits**

Readers will recall our survey last year of those who had unexpectedly finished up in the ocean while wearing a wetsuit. While some respondents told of being flipped on an estuary bar, few experienced what befell two fishermen returning from a fishing trip in Foveaux Strait early in May. According to the one survivor who was eventually rescued from the hull of his 4.7m boat, 3 large waves "...rose up in front...the third wave was massive...at least the size of a house. It flipped us straight on our back."

Such large waves do exist and unfortunately in this instance neither fisherman was wearing a life jacket. The rescued survivor was cold and having increased difficulty staying on the upturned hull. In such circumstances, wet suits **do** offer sufficient flotation and **do** stave off hypothermia.

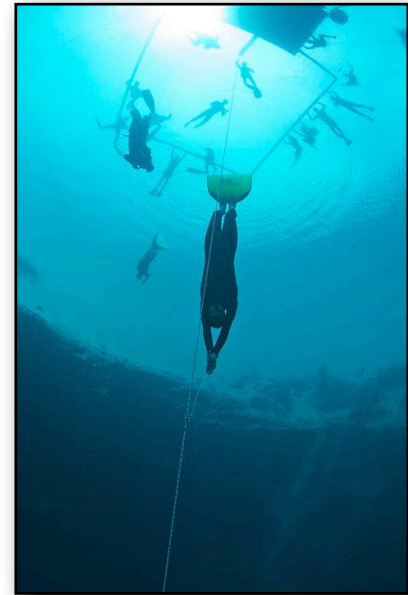
### **World Freediving Championships, Bahamas**

An increasing number of NZ spearfishers have benefitted from attending freediving courses run by Dave Mullins. Dave recently successfully competed in the World Freediving Champs in the 203m deep Blue Hole in the Bahamas. It is a favoured spot for such competitions

because apart from the depth and visibility, the temperature variation is only about 1 degree difference between the surface and 100 metres. One photo shows Dave as he begins his descent in the Constant Weight category and the other holding his tags at the completion of his 114m dive. Dave comments as follows.



record with a 116m dive, and then on the last day I did 118m. The dive is recognised by AIDA international but because I didn't bring up a tag (they were hanging underneath the plate rather than on top), AIDA NZ can't recognise it as a national record. Still, at least it's on the world ranking list and makes me the third deepest diver behind Martin (Czech Republic) and Herbert (Austria). Unfortunately media coverage of my dives wasn't so good because of problems



downloading the video files. I ran out of time to attempt a deeper dive but will train through winter and have another go at it next summer.”

### **National Spearfishing Champs 2011, Tauranga Bay, Northland**

Dates: 18<sup>th</sup> – 23 January, 2011

During Easter this year members of the Spearfishing Committee personally checked out various aspects of what was on offer around Whangaroa since our last competition there in 2002. The motel units at Tauranga Bay remain, but were up for sale. There were no Bookabach or Holiday Houses shown as being available over the competition period.

The Tauranga Bay Holiday Park where most people stayed last time is a comfortable 15 minute drive to the launching ramp at Whangaroa. The ramp itself is in the inner harbour, is user friendly, having a wide concrete ramp, calm water, and parking for vehicles and trailers.

The Tauranga Bay Holiday Park has grown from one that had a few cabins to one that now has 19. They are spread around the perimeter of the camping site and vary in price depending on the services offered. We were told that the camp has increased in popularity in recent years with more people booking cabins and tent sites well before the holiday season. As an indication of that, in July/August they start to collate their cabin and tent site bookings. Check out their website for photos and details. [www.taurangabay.co.nz](http://www.taurangabay.co.nz)

We advise those divers who are inclined to leave their accommodation arrangements to the last minute that a choice of Holiday Park sites is much less likely to be available to them if they do that in 2011. Alternatives might be the small camp site with some basic cabins opposite the mangroves near the entrance to Whangaroa. We are told a previously discussed option of using the rugby club area for camping turned out to be unsuitable.

Fish disposal: Whangaroa Coastguard has recently received a new vessel. Its running costs etc are partly dependent on local fundraising. They are keen to receive our catch for local auction.

### **NZ Fisheries and Recreational Input**

Up until 3 months ago Recreational Fishing Forums were found in different areas around NZ. Members of those Forums were made up of a diversity of people, sometimes with quite different fishing interests who met with the Ministry of Fisheries four or five times a year to discuss and resolve local fishing issues. Since the restructuring within the Ministry of Fisheries at the end of 2009 those Forums have been disbanded. In their place MFish called for applications of interested recreational fishers who are mandated by clubs or fishing organisations and the Ministry will select those members to be appointed to Forums. This is a significant change and one to be viewed with caution by those representing recreational interests. The Ministry has already said

that it will 'engage less with stakeholders' and the new Forums will meet less often. Amongst questions being discussed by recreational fishers are, who sets the agendas for the new Forums, will Forums have a role as de facto rubber stamps of MFish policies? Members of the new Forums can be said to be representative of the different fishing groups so recreational fishing interests have then been consulted. Have they?

Being fair to Mfish however, if this new initiative is in part born of frustration with the inability of different recreational fishing organisations to unify their approach and responses to Ministry proposals, then those organisations have the solution within them if they are prepared to change tack.

### **Bluewater Competition March 5-7 2011**

Following considerable discussion between the sponsors and organisers of this event there are now significant changes set down for next year. Firstly, the event has been moved to an earlier date. All parties are well aware that whatever times were chosen, some people would be disadvantaged or excluded. That is a feature of all competitions though. In this case the sponsors have decided that they should all enter teams of 5-6 people. Those teams will come from their contacts, although some divers will be keen to be associated with a shop or brand and can identify themselves to the sponsor. Some clubs may also decide to enter teams, and individuals will still be able to enter in their own right as they have over the past two years.

Teams will be scored on a pro rata basis so a team of for example 8 divers will have their score made comparable with a team of 5. All members of teams will still have their own score calculated over the two day event for an individual winner. Other matters like registration, cancellation, on-line briefing, hours of competition, prize giving will be dealt with later in the year on the website. [www.spearfishingnz.co.nz](http://www.spearfishingnz.co.nz)

The impetus being given this competition by the sponsors has the potential to make it one of the more significant events on the calendar because it brings together many divers who are keen to spear a gamefish and enjoy using a boat during the hours of competition.

### **Inter Pacific Champs, 2011**

This event will be organised by Mercury Bay with a tentatively suggested date somewhere later in March 2011. It is anticipated that overseas teams will come from Hawaii, Australia and Tahiti. Hopefully, one or two of those countries will bring with them a team of women. Updates on the event should be available as the year progresses while in keeping with the Rules, full details will be available to other countries by November of this year at the latest.

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This information is sent to you from Spearfishing NZ. If you do not wish to receive further issues please contact one of the Committee mentioned below.

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