



# CANTERBURY UNDERWATER CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

November 2016

## CLUB CALENDAR

### Next Club Meeting

Tuesday 13 December

The next club meeting will be held at The After Hours Hanger on Orchard Road from 7:30pm on Tuesday 13 December. A guest speaker from Dive HQ will discuss their new range of scuba gear – just in time for Christmas.

### October Committee Meeting Summary

You can read the minutes from the most recent committee meeting attached to this email.

## DIVING IN THE NEWS

### Shellfish Warning for Canterbury

People are being warned not to eat shellfish caught between Motunau Beach and Akaroa Harbour.

Canterbury District Health Board medical officer of health Dr Daniel Williams said tests on shellfish showed levels of Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning (DSP) toxins of up to 0.26mg/kg.

"Dr Daniel Williams said "anyone eating shellfish from this area is potentially at risk of illness"

Williams also said cooking shellfish would not remove the toxin.

Symptoms of DSP, including diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea and abdominal cramps, typically appear within half an hour and can last for 24 hours.

Williams said paua, crab and crayfish could still be eaten if the gut had been completely removed prior to cooking, as toxins accumulate in the gut.

### Missing Akaroa Diver

The first long weekend of summer was soon dampened with the alarming news of a missing diver out of Akaroa on Saturday 22 October, leaving many in the diving community rattled.



The diver, Seddon Jane, 42 of Wairoa, was described by those close to him as being 'very experienced', and an Akaroa local said the weather 'could not have been nicer — variable wind but not much of a roll, pretty much flat'.

Searchers, including coastguard volunteers, used a helicopter and up to eight boats to scour the remote search area, including the marine reserve centered in Flea Bay where a massive raft of Little Blue penguins were said to have been disturbed during the search, but the diver was not found.

### Miracle Rescue for Mauritius Divers

5 divers endured a terrifying seven-hour ordeal as a deadly riptide dragged them nearly ten miles off shore, while diving on holiday in Mauritius.

Linking arms, the group had to tread water and pray for a rescue as a tropical storm came roaring in.

The boat they had been diving from had left the area to drop off more divers while the group were underwater.

'We thought we were done for, that we'd perish in the water and our bodies would never be found,' said Julie – one of the divers in the group.



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'If I'd known the boat was going to leave us, I would absolutely never had gone in the water. It's a diver's worst nightmare,' said Jeff, a site manager and veteran of more than 500 dives.

Meanwhile, a huge search operation involving a helicopter and 20 vessels had been launched.



An investigation by the Mauritius Scuba Diving Association (MSDA) found that the skipper and the dive master were negligent and have issued a temporarily suspension of their licence.

## Calgary man loses testicles while trying to 'fill scuba tank with weed smoke'

A 29-year old Calgary local has suffered extensive injuries to his lower body after an unconventional attempt to 'fill a scuba tank with weed smoke' failed spectacularly. According to witnesses, Robert Palmer had consumed a copious quantity of alcohol before making the decision to use the home-made device.



"Rob's a recreational diver," commented one of the injured man's friends. "For some time, he's been tinkering with an old scuba tank that he'd bought cheaply from a dive shop. His plan was to use an air compressor to feed smoke into the tank, and then use a scuba regulator to inhale it."

Mr Palmer will likely be unable to file for compensation against the business that sold him the defective tank as it was not sold for the purpose of inhaling cannabis. The young man faces a long recovery, but his associates shared their optimism that he would pull through.

## GO DIVING

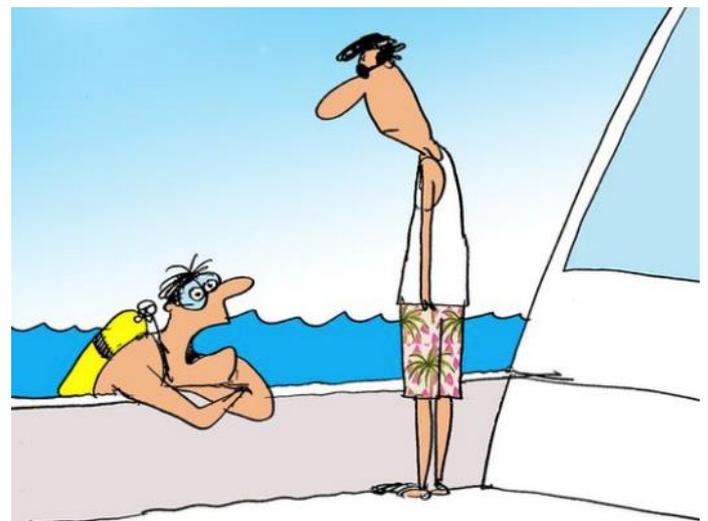
### Napi Nap Shore Dive

Weekend of 19/20 November - weather dependant

### Annual Club Cray Dive

Weekend in December TBA

If you would like organise a trip for your fellow club members please speak to Jono or David or let us know at the next club meeting.



*"That's it! I'm going on a diet. A manatee hit on me."*



# CANTERBURY UNDERWATER CLUB

## EDUCATION

### **PADI Rescue Diver Training**

Club Rescue Diver Funding Application

The Canterbury Underwater Club will submit an application for funding a limited number of members to be put through the PADI Rescue Diver training. The aim of funding training through the club is to provide a safer and more enjoyable environment for club members while exploring our favourite environment. We are seeking interest from club members who have not yet become rescue qualified divers who wish to give back to the club and community by regularly attending club events and assisting with your newly gained qualification!

If this sounds like you please get in touch with a committee member or attend the next club meeting to register your interest to assist in forming an application for funding.

We will be submitting further applications for oxygen training and first aid courses so if rescue diver training doesn't sound like you stay tuned into the newsletter for further funding application updates.

### **The Boat Skipper Course**

19 & 26 November 2016, 9-4pm

\$195

A comprehensive two day recreational classroom based boating course, designed to provide you with the knowledge to be a safer and more confident skipper or crew member.

Running over two consecutive Saturday's, you will cover topics like:

- Equipment for your vessel
- Boat stability and anchoring
- Charting and tides
- Rules of the road at sea
- Taking bearings and much more....

To book your spot today visit:

[www.waynemiddleton.co.nz/dates](http://www.waynemiddleton.co.nz/dates)

### **Marine Mammal Medic**

26 or 27 November 2016

\$120

Each year hundreds of whales and dolphins strand on our shores. Become a Marine Mammal Medic with Project Jonah's one day course and go onto their national callout list to put your lifesaving skills to use when there is a stranding. By the end of the course you'll be trained to:

- Assist in the rescue of stranded dolphins and whales
- Act as a role model to untrained rescuers

For more information or to book, click here:

<http://www.projectjonah.org.nz/medic>

If you spot a whale or dolphin stranding please call Project Jonah's hotline ASAP on **0800 4 WHALE**



## CONNECT

Like our Facebook page and get the latest on trip reports and other news, here:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanterburyUnderwaterClub>