

Trip Report: November “Skive Dive”, 11th November 2009

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So there were 10 of us on Monday geared up to dive... but alas, sadly we had to say “Goodbye” to 5, slaves to the Wage Master – confined to dry land. Prepared for the day out cruising the Waikato were the TechDive Crew... Andy, Mel and Jamie with Mike and myself as support.

The weather when we arrived was looking just dreadful – no clouds, no wind, no waves. Just sun, (almost) good company, and a willingness to mock those who couldn’t make it! At least this skive dive, we weren’t going to all send txt messages to Tony about him missing out, that would just be cruel!



At the moment, the stern and hanger lines on HMNZS Waikato are missing buoys, so the plan was for Mike and I to play around on the bow section, while The Crew were about to embark on a trial run of the newly approved PADI Advanced Wreck Specialty, as written by Andy and Jamie (did you spot the shameless plug??). This was apparently going to be a straight-forward operation, as we listened in on the briefing. But like all best laid plans, they don’t always work out exactly as expected! Listening to Mel and Andy talk about their dive, they obviously missed out on the great visibility as they tackled the skills in and around the hanger whilst pretending to be students for Jamie.



For the second dive, Mike and I took the long swim out to the SMB that Andy had left in place after the first dive. Our plan was to drop down to the stern where we knew we could enter the wreck and spend the majority of our dive inside, working our way through to the break and across to the bow. Diving on nitrox we had plenty of time for a quick spin round the bow before ascending and climbing back onboard. Meanwhile in masks blacked out our intrepid trio slunk back

into the hanger to build on the preparations for the course... judging by the dirty knees they must have been up to something! To find out why, you’ll have to enrol for the PADI Advanced Wreck Specialty (whoops, other shameless plug).

All in all another day better spent underwater instead of under the Wage Masters whip. It’s true, diving midweek is way better than at the weekend, so a big thankyou to Dive! Tutukaka for another glorious “skive dive”!

Photos topside courtesy of Mel... sadly none were taken below, as we’d hate to gloat...