



AGM / Conference Programme – Saturday, 3 October, 2015

10.00 -10.45	Annual General Meeting	
11:00	Norm Judd – Finding a piece of wood in a remote island	Nothing stirs the blood of divers and historians like finding something where it shouldn't be – like a 180cm long, weathered and scarred wooden beam with protruding iron spikes in the peat on Campbell Island's southern coast. Is it possible that this is the remains of the wreck of the Australian-built brig, Perseverance? Historian Norm Judd shares his findings.
11:30	Jeffrey Holman – The Lost Pilot: WWII Kamikaze attacks on Pacific Shipping	In a journey of discovery and reconciliation, author Jeffrey Holman set about finding the families of the kamikaze pilots who died attacking his father's ship in 1945. <i>The Lost Pilot</i> tells the story of six families that he meets.
12:00	Keith Gordon – The Ventnor Saga Continues	Well-known shipwreck author, Keith Gordon, is a member of the group who searched for and found the SS Ventnor, or Chinese Ghost Ship. Carrying the bodies of 499 Chinese miners, the SS Ventnor sunk 112 years ago off the Hokianga Heads after striking a reef near the coast of Taranaki. The wreck has become the centre of a legal wrangle between Heritage New Zealand, some of the descendants of the Chinese miners and the Ventnor Project Group, which found the wreck.
12:45	Lunch at Pegasus Arms	
13:45	Lynton Diggle – Salvage of the President Coolidge	Editor of the go-to resource on shipwrecks in New Zealand, Lynton Diggle won first prize and plaque at the 18th Los Angeles International Underwater Film Festival in 1980 for this documentary on the salvage of the wreck of the SS President Coolidge. A 22,000 ton American troopship, the President Coolidge was loaded with thousands of home bound troops when it slammed into two mines in the harbour of Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu in 1942. The film shows how salvage master Ian Lockley designed a unique four man submersible diving chamber to work at depths of over 73m to remove over 600 tons of oil.
14:15	Garth MacIntyre and Malcom Blair – Diving WWII wrecks in the Solomon Islands	Report on a recent expedition to dive WWII wrecks in the Solomon Islands
14:45	Heather Wellington – Remembering the Battle of the River Plate	In December 1939, during a battle between the German ship Admiral Graf Spee and Royal Navy cruisers Ajax, Exeter and Achilles, Captain Langsdorff scuttled his ship, Achilles, in the River Plate. Despite the loss, this was the first decisive victory of WWII for the Allies. Achilles was a British ship with a majority of New Zealand crew – the RNZ was not until 1941. Heather's father served on Achilles during the battle, and she and her brother attended the 75th Anniversary commemorations in South America.
15:15	Afternoon Tea	
15:30	Dave Tattle – Reminiscences of a Diving Career	As diving officer at the University of Canterbury, Dave Tattle's responsibility included scuba training to certification level of students for helping with marine specimen collecting. This responsibility required Dave to travel and dive through-out New Zealand in search of suitable specimens. Dave will touch on spearfishing and U/W photography but mostly on ship-wreck exploration with emphasis on artefact collection and conservation. The artefact collection can be viewed on the Sunday 4th visit to his home.
16:00	End of speaker programme.	