

# COMMERCIAL DIVING COURSES

## DIVING FOR A CAREER

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photo credit **OMNE MARINE**

**A career spent underwater as a commercial diver is the dream for LUKE HAYWARD.**

The 18-year-old's love of diving is a natural response to growing up next to the water – his family home can only be reached by boat. Luke went to Mercury Bay Area School in Whitianga, where he took English, Calculus, Biology, Physics and Dive Academy in Year 13.

The dive academy course was the stepping stone to him enrolling with Omne Marine Group – New Zealand's only commercial diver trainer provider with over 28 years of experience teaching people from the civilian, navy and customs sectors.

"Every Friday, a few of us from school went out to do our PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) dive qualifications," says Luke.

"In Year 11, I did my PADI open water and advanced open water courses, then in Year 13 I did my rescue and dive masters."

Luke went straight from school to train with the highly regarded Omne Marine Group, based in Huntly,



## CAREERS EXPO

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Waikato. In March, he passed his New Zealand Certificate in Surface Supplied Breathing Apparatus (SSBA) Construction Diving to 50 metres (Level 5).

Graduates with this qualification are employed in onshore construction, aquaculture, police, customs and military industries that require underwater construction – plus highly sought after positions as offshore construction air divers.

The diving school is based at the old Huntly quarry which is 80 metres deep. Luke loved the whole experience of challenging himself to become a qualified diver.

“It was a big jump from just recreational diving. There is so much more that you have to do, with the 20kg helmets and umbilical cables and all the gear,” says Luke.

“We learnt a lot of stuff. The biggest challenge for me was getting used to everything at the start because it was all so new. It is a cool experience but nearly all the training we did was in pitch black water.”



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**LUKE HAYWARD**

Luke loved his experience learning under the Omne Marine Group.

“It is a very good course. All the instructors are really supportive. If you are struggling with the paperwork, they are so helpful.

“The exams needed you to put plenty of hard work into but overall, the whole course was just absolutely incredible. It is kind of sad it ended to be honest.”

Luke is in the process of getting his Certificate of Competency (CoC) so he can work commercially.

His goal is to work offshore in Australia, doing maintenance on boats and oil rigs.

“I am looking forward to diving offshore in 800 metres of clear water. That will be pretty cool.

“The key thing to succeed as a commercial diver is to be accepting of what the environment is. You can’t panic at all. You just have to be chilled and not worry.”

For school leavers who love being in and under the water, Luke says the diving course is a great way to get into the industry.

“The course is open to people who haven’t dived before but if you have dived before, it is a huge help.”

## KEY FACTS



- **LUKE HAYWARD** PASSED HIS **NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN SURFACE SUPPLIED BREATHING APPARATUS (SSBA) CONSTRUCTION DIVING TO 50 METRES (LEVEL 5)**.
- HE TOOK **ENGLISH, CALCULUS, BIOLOGY, PHYSICS AND DIVE ACADEMY IN YEAR 13** AT **MERCURY BAY AREA SCHOOL** IN **WHITIANGA**.
- **LUKE** IS GETTING HIS **CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY (COC)** SO HE CAN WORK **COMMERCIALY**.

## ONLINE



For more information on commercial diving courses offered by **OMNE Marine**, visit [www.omnemarine.co.nz](http://www.omnemarine.co.nz)

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