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C	President:	John Blaszcak	Photographic Officer:	Terry Mansfield
L	Treasurer:	Ross Hipwell	Social Secretaries:	Miriam Roberts
U	Secretary:	Audrey Mansfield		Rhonda and
B	Dive			Karl Krieter
	Organiser:	Gary Roberts	Publicity Officer:	Cindy Belveal

* * * * *

MINUTES OF MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

Held 21.4.86 at Bankstown Sports Club

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Meeting Opened: at 8.10 p.m. by the President.

Visitors: Peter Smith, Peter Collins, Neil Koos and Paul Jordan were welcomed.

Apologies: From Lynn and Neil Vincent, Peter and Leslie Stratford, Miriam Roberts and Peter Jermy.

New Members: Paul Jordan

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Were read and accepted by Gary Roberts and seconded by Kelly Smith.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Richard Taylor's prize of a trip on the Takaroa has been organised and he and Brenda will now go on the trip arranged by some S.P.D. members 16.9.86 to 26.9.86.

The President, John Blaszcak put it to the members that it would assist all concerned if problems like that arising with Richard's trip was brought to the attention of the committee as soon as it is known so that action can be taken by the committee as soon as possible.

Treasurer's Report:	Balance B/F in chq. a/c	\$ 992.83
	Income	370.30
	Expenditure	83.75
	Balance as at 21.4.86	\$ 1279.38
	Term deposit	\$ 3000.00

Accepted by Jim Smith seconded by Martin Kandilas.

Kym Kohen asked whether this balance was before or after the \$500 towards Brenda's passage on the Takaroa. He was informed that the \$500 has not yet been deducted. The president informed members that the \$500 will be paid straight to Alan Johnson of the Takaroa.

Dive Organiser's Report: Re; 11.5.86 - Bass Point, B.B.Q. and dive. Gary mentioned that he had said to meet at the "gutter". Cindy, correcting Gary's grammar of course, wrote in the newsletter that all to meet at the "kerb".

Dive weekend being organised at Huskisson. See mag. for more details.

Dive Reports:

Bruce reported on dive on "Valiant" with 20' viz. Plenty of slop out of Pittwater.

Reports on the Jervis Bay Dive weekend were given by Larry King, and Peter Flockhart, helped out by other members.

Larry's Suzuki motor on his boat apparently gave up the boat whilst out on a dive and they had to be towed back by an enormous police boat. Larry says that they were bailing out the boat with their mask and flippers on, whilst Graham Wakling took one look at their situation and broke down.

Peter Flockhart dived Bowen with Martin (ignoring Larry's cries for assistance) so says Larry. Current was running, with a very cold layer on the bottom. Saw weedy sea dragon, cuttle fish and plenty of bottom life. Very pleasant dive. Peter also dived point Perp. with B.J. where nearly all divers were heartily sea sick. Very cold on the bottom here also.

Brenda Parks reported on dive at Seal Rocks with rough seas and dirty water. Saw plenty of grey nurse sharks and will show slides after the meeting.

Kym Kohen reported on trip to the Solomons. Not as good as New Guinea but excellent for Novice divers. 80 to 100' viz with big gorgonias, sharks and turtles. Good for persons who like protective diving.

Bruce Meyer reported on Friday night dive at Camp Cove. Brilliant dive with plenty of Octopi and sea horses. Also saw lion fish, plenty of flatworms and wobbies. All in 15' of water.

Terry Mansfield reported on dive on Dunbar with Robert and B.J. Found plenty of nails. Big surge running.

Larry King also reported on dive at Shell Harbour in 15' ducky with a chrysler motor on a reef 28 to 30 m off gutter "the kerb". Good dive with 30 to 40' viz.

B.J. reported on his dive on the Dunbar - weird undertow - took him all his time to find the crowbars and other gear he had thrown overboard before his dive. He will be going out again at 8.00 p.m. tomorrow and is looking for company. Contact him if you are interested in going for a dive.

Social Organiser's Report

3.5.86 - La Champagne Restaurant at Fairfield. \$5.00 per person deposit required A.S.A.P.

5.7.86 - Bush dance and dinner at Wilton. Club to look into hiring a mini bus or coach for this night.

Coming social activities - car rally, ski weekend in August. Names required now for this ski weekend.

A room has been booked for the club Xmas party on the 5.12.86 at the Bankstown Sports Club.

Photographic Officer's Report

George Roberts Trophy has now been returned.

There was a bit of confusion regarding closing date for the 2nd stage of the George Robert's Trophy - entries due by May meeting. Presentation at June Meeting.

Entry forms for the "Man and the Sea" photographic comp. available from Terry.

Terry asked again if anyone had given any more thought to nominations for Photographic Officer. Not one person was brought forward.

General Business

In Peter Jermyn's absence, Gary told members that Peter has now almost finished setting up his mini-bus for trips to the snowy. Anyone interested should contact Peter.

Arrangements were on the way for our display stand at the Man and the Sea Seminar on 16th/17th/18th May, 1986. Volunteers were called for to man the stand on a rotating shift basis. We will use stand to promote our Australasian Underwater Photographer comp. and to display marine artifacts from club members. Peter Fields has organised security arrangements for the duration of the seminar.

Members were informed that what we thought had been passes to the Zoo, were only tickets for use one time only. Anyone wishing to use tickets to contact committee.

Members were informed re. films obtained in 1984 from Bill Lovin of Marine Graphics U.S.A. by Penny Sullivan which have not been returned. Please see enclosed file note. Committee to report back to members at next club meeting.

A motion was made by Jim Smith that all correspondence go through club P.O. Box No. and not to any private address. Seconded Rick Latimer. Passed.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Slides were shown by Martin Kandilas, Brenda Park and Kym Kohen.

SOCIAL & DIVE CALENDAR

May 16, 17 & 18: "MAN & THE SEA"

Don't forget S.P.D. has a stand at this exhibition at the Uni. of N.S.W. in the Sir John Clancy Auditorium. I understand entry to the stalls section of the expo. is free but there is an entry fee for anyone interested in attending the seminars, films and audio visual.

If you are able to help out for a little while on the S.P.D. stand it would be greatly appreciated otherwise just come along and see what the others have. We will be showing slides from past A/V's, displaying salvaged items donated by club members and answering any enquiries about South Pacific Divers Club. It will be interesting and fun. Hope we see you there.

May 30 to June 1: JERVIS BAY WEEKEND

We have a limited number of spots left for what should be a great time at Husky. We have rented a fully self-contained house with it's own Bar-B-Que and jetty at the rear so no trouble with boat ramps or parking.

The accomodation will cost \$20.00 per head, breakfast and lunch will be supplied on Saturday and Sunday at a cost of about \$10. You find your own dinner on Saturday night at the pub or Club or you can cook your own in the house.

Remember spots are filling quick so ring me soon or miss out. - Gary 771 3459 after 8 p.m.

June 21 & 22: WEEKEND AT SEAL ROCKS

Dive with the SHARKS at Seal Rocks! This is a must for the members who have a sense of adventure - there are also two great wrecks, the Suttara and Catterthun.

The accommodation is \$7 per head per night in self-contained units accommodating 5 people per unit. The master bedroom has a double bed the other room has twin beds, and a fold-out in the lounge/living area.

Each unit has its own bathroom and kitchen facilities, all you need to bring are provisions, sheets and towels. All units are at ground level for easy access. Also ideal area for children, with open grass area for bikes, cricket and football on a beautiful shallow lake safe for children and great for fishing and other lake water sports. There is an all-weather tennis court available free to guests.

All we need is divers and boats for this weekend. We have booked accommodation for 30 people and I need to know numbers by the May Club Meeting. - Miriam 771 3459 after 8 p.m.

Social & Diving Calendar (Cont.)

Friday, July 18: AUSTRALASIAN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Order forms and payment for your seats should be given to Audrey at the next Club Meeting (19 May). Unreserved seats will be made available in about 2 weeks. However it is advisable to get your orders and money in so you won't be disappointed.

Sunday, August 3: SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CAR RALLY

This will be a morning car rally with departure point and time to be advised - followed by a B.B.Q. at the Mystery Finish Line. Should be fun for all, with prizes too!

August 29, 30 & 31: SKI WEEKEND - SNOWY MOUNTAINS

There wasn't a great response to this suggestion at the Club meeting so we've decided to drop it from the calendar. For the members who were interested we suggest you organise a weekend for yourselves so you don't miss out.

Peter Jermyn has a bus for hire for this weekend or any future dive trips. It is large enough to seat 8-10 people and sleeps 4 - on a share expenses arrangement or personal hire. For further information please talk to Peter (phone 707 3086)

September 16 - 26: TAKAROA

This dive holiday has 2 vacancies left. The cost is \$888 (all inclusive on boat). If you are interested please contact Terry & Audrey Mansfield ASAP (phone 628 8172).

GENERAL INTEREST:

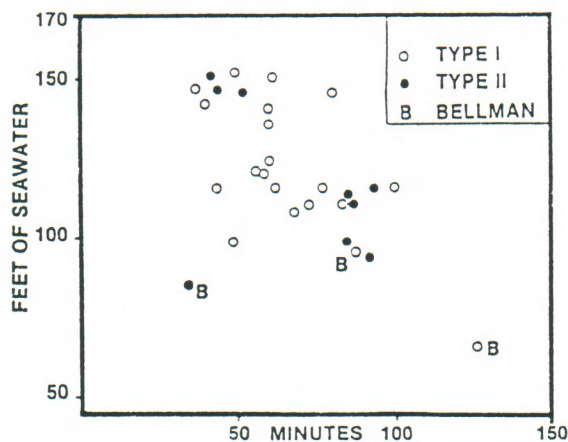
In case there is any confusion Terry would like to remind you that entries for the George Roberts photo comp. should be in by the May meeting, (not last month's meeting).

Boat Dives are still available at a reasonable price from AQUA SPORTS, 430 Hume Hwy., YABOODA. Talk to GLEN PERCY. Phone: 708 2826.

Dick Clarke

Four years of surface oriented air diving from a North Sea multi-service vessel, involving 3,933 man/dives, resulted in 29 cases of decompression sickness. The accompanying figure indicates exposures that produced DCS, supporting the popular contention that USN Standard Air Decompression Tables are particularly suspect in the 120-150 foot range.

AIR DIVING DECOMPRESSION SICKNESS PROFILES



than a contents gauge, the value of buoyancy vests, and whether boats should be left empty while divers are below. These are all matters of significance when the diver runs into trouble.

CASE REPORTS

All these reports are based on depositions provided by those involved to the police investigating the incident or told to the Coroner, though sometimes other sources have been available to aid clarification of certain aspects of the events.

SC 84/11

This incident is possibly unique and concerns the fatal embrace of a cuttlefish and the diver who speared it. It happened during a dive organised by a dive school as either the conclusion of the course or a post-course social before the presentation of certificates (opinions differ on this point). Two boats were used to reach the dive area, one owned by the instructor and the other by his assistant. Neither belonged to a national diving instructor organisation, nor accepted usual scuba safety protocols. There were 16 divers in all. There was no provision for anyone to remain as surface observer and boat minder, though two divers aborted their dives so one boat was manned.

All entered the water as buddy pairs. The victim, a former breath-hold spearfisherman, carried a handspear. It is not known how many others also intended spearfishing. About 12 minutes after entering the water the victim's buddy realised that he was low on air (J valve, no gauge), signaled this to the victim, who pulled the reserve for him but indicated that he would remain below so the buddy surfaced alone. He would have acted similarly. When he returned to the boat and found a diver there with a full air tank he exchanged his empty one for it and dived again. He was certain that such was correct behaviour and he made no attempt to rejoin his buddy or any other divers. He continued to dive until he had completely used this tank also, an air management plan that seems to have been expected of all those present.

At some stage two of the divers saw the victim apparently with a fish on his spear and a cuttlefish on the spear tip. At an earlier time the buddy had prodded a cuttlefish trying to shelter beneath a ledge. As divers used up their air they returned to the boats and ultimately only the victim remained absent. The surface was watched in the hope he had surfaced and been washed away and there was a flurry of hope when something surfaced, disappointment when it was seen to be the headless body of a cuttlefish. Neither of the instructors attempted an underwater breath-hold search, nor was there any questioning of the incorrect assumption that nobody had any air remaining.

It was 25 minutes after the last diver had returned to the boat with empty tanks that open concern was first expressed. It was decided that one boat should return to shore to notify the police and obtain three full tanks. It was not possible to radio for assistance because neither boat's radio was working. The body was found on the sea bed, with all equipment in place except for one fin, which lay nearby. It had an old nick out of the heel piece and in consequence would have been loose fitting.

At the autopsy some neck marks and a bitten ear were noted to be consistent with an attack by a 30cm cuttlefish. It is said that cuttlefish may hold onto divers but they do not attack. This one may have disliked being speared and attacked when shaken from the end of the spear. Both middle ears contained blood, a sign of recent barotrauma. His tank was empty. It was suggested that when the injured cuttlefish attached itself to his head he grabbed hold of it and tried to tear it off (ultimately he tore it apart, some indication of his desperate strength) while vigorously finning to reach the surface, by which time he was possibly out of air. When his fin came off he sank down, weighted by his equipment, suffering distracting pain in his ears in addition to his previous troubles and drowned, having no buoyancy vest and not having ditched his weights. The J valve was in the OFF position when the body was found so it is probable that he had been diving with it OPEN and pulled it to the OFF position when intending to utilise the reserve air.

Several students spoke highly of the course they had just completed and the instructor defended his belief that there is no need to leave anyone in a dive boat as surface cover, to be strict with buddy diving discipline, to use contents gauges, wear buoyancy vests, or take an extra tank of air for emergency use. The Coroner was told that it would have put the divers at risk of decompression sickness if air had been available and they dived again, a remarkable argument as they had been diving at only 18-25m and if this was a real risk for participants in a search-and-rescue dive then in-water decompression stops could have been arranged. Here a diver's life was at stake as contrasted with a slight risk of the rescuer suffering the treatable condition of DCS. The unwisdom of placing reliance on a J-Valve reserve is highlighted here, as when a diver enters the water with the valve OPEN, as may occur by some chance knock, he finds himself completely and unexpectedly without air when he moves the reserve's lever in anticipation of more air.

Nowadays there is a growing acceptance that those who have a professional status must accept a requirement that they provide an appropriately greater responsibility for their actions than is required of others. A diving instructor, or anyone who runs diving trips commercially, must shoulder a burden of care for everyone on the dive which would not be expected from a diver taking out some friends. This would include careful listing of all dive pairs as they entered and left the water, ensuring that some capable person remained in the boat to provide surface cover and ensure the boat did not drift away, and have a "disaster plan". This should include a first aid box, oxygen, a spare air cylinder, and a working radio. If dives were to be made where decompression stops were required, or made prophylactically, a shot line with tank should be provided.

JUST TRAINED. INEXPERIENCED. THIRD OPEN WATER DIVE. SCUBA SPEARFISHING. SPEARED CUTTLEFISH. "CUTTLEFISH ATTACK". NO CONTENTS GAUGE. DIVED WITH J VALVE OPEN. NO BUOYANCY VEST. NO SURFACE COVER THOUGHT NECESSARY. FAULTY BOAT RADIOS. BUDDY SOLO DIVED OFTEN SOLO SURFACING AND BORROWING FULL TANK. MOST OF THE DIVES ONLY SURFACED WHEN OUT OF AIR. DELAYED SEARCH. SEPARATION/ SOLO. FAILED TO DROP WEIGHT BELT. LOW OR OUT OF AIR. BITTEN ON EAR. LOST FIN. MIDDLE EAR BAROTRAUMA.

AUSTRALIAN DIVING RELATED FATALITIES 1984

CASE	AGE	DIVE SKILL		GROUP	DIVE		WATER DEPTH M (FEET)	DEPTH INCIDENT M (FEET)
		VICTIM	BUDDY		BASE	PURPOSE		
BH 84/1	44	Experienced	Experienced (Scuba)	2 Separation	Boat	Crayfish	N.S	N.S
BH 84/2	68	Inexperienced	N/A	Group solo	Boat	Recreation	1.5 (5)	Surface
BH 84/3	19	Experienced	Experienced	3 Separation	Boat	Spearfishing	15 (50)	N.S
BH 84/4	62	Experienced	Experienced	4 Separation	Boat	Spearfishing	6 (20)	N.S
SC 84/1	41	Inexperienced Just Trained	Experienced Not Trained	2 Separation	Rock	Recreation	6 (20)	Surface
SC 84/2	25	N.S	N.S	2	Land	Golf balls	?	Surface
SC 84/3	28	Experienced CD2	Experienced CDX	2	Land	Recreation	70 (230)	60 (200)
SC 84/4	30	Experienced CDX	Experienced CD2	2	Land	Recreation	70 (230)	60 (200)
SC 84/5	31	Inexperienced Not Trained	N/A	1	Rock	Crayfish	N.S	Surface
SC 84/6	25	Experienced Trained	Experienced Trained	3	Boat	Recreation	18 (60)	Ascent
SC 84/7	20	Experienced Trained CD2	Experienced Trained CD2	2	Land	Recreation	42 (140)	42 (140)
SC 84/8	33	Experienced Trained	Experienced Trained	4 (9)	Boat	Recreation	21 (70)	12 (40)
SC 84/9	22	Experienced Trained	Experienced Trained	4 (9)	Boat	Recreation	21 (70)	12 (40)
SC 84/10	21	Inexperienced Trained	N/A	1	Dock	Work	10 (33)	10 (33)
SC 84/11	26	Inexperienced Trained	Inexperienced Trained	2 (14) Separation	Boat	Recreation	24 (80)	N.S
SC 84/12	30	Experienced	Experienced	3 Separation	Boat	Recreation	48 (160)	48 (160)
H 84/1	27	Experienced Not Trained	Experienced Not Trained	3 Separation	Boat	Work	16 (54)	Ascent

KEY

CD2 = Qualified as category 2 Cave Diver
 CDX = Unqualified but with some cave diving experience
 Trained = Had completed a course of instruction
 Just Trained = Had just completed a course of instruction
 N.S = Not Stated
 N/A = Not Applicable

AUSTRALIAN DIVING RELATED FATALITIES 1984

WEIGHT KG (LB)	BELT POSITION	CONTENTS GAUGE	BUOYANCY VEST	REMAINING AIR	EQUIPMENT TESTED	EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER	WET SUIT	SIGNIFICANT FACTORS
N.S	N.S	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Own	Yes	Water power in narrow channel. Separation/solo; more than usual runoff water.
None	None	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Loaned	No	Tourist. Swim to sand cay, calm shallow water. Refused offer of vest. Heart attack.
5.5 (12)	On	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Own	Yes	Spearfishing, hit fish in belly and it fought hard. Blackout.
N.S	On	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Own	Yes	Solo return, placed equipment in boat. Presumed to have had a heart attack. No buoyancy vest so drowned.
7.5 (16)	On	Yes	No	Nil	Yes	Own	Yes	62 cu ft tank. Separation expected. At surface hit by wave. Possibly asthmatic. Heart disease fatality.
?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	Searching for golf balls in a dam. Shot by duck shooter at night.
7 (15)	On	Yes	Yes	Nil	Yes	Own	Yes	Little sleep with an early start to avoid the ranger. No permit. Excessive depth and weights.
7 (15)	On	Yes	Yes	Nil	Yes	Own	Yes	Danger grade dive. Nitrogen narcosis. Cold. Dark. Excessive loose line. Return wrong side rock. Entangled.
N.S	N.S	N.S	No	Low	Yes	Own	Yes	Buddy leaky hose, no dive. Swell and breakers sea dangerous.
9.5 (21)	On	Yes	Yes	Low	Yes	Own	Yes	10 divers. "64" tank so planned solo ascent. Inflated vest ascent. CAGE. Delayed death. Asthmatic.
N.S	On	N.S	N.S	N.S	No	Own	Yes	Careful diver. Pre-dive feeling of chest tightness. Pain at depth. Taken to hospital. Delayed recognition serious illness. Aortic rupture.
13 (29)	On	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Own	Yes	Two Groups (4+5) in sea cave. Wrong cave. Hit by swell. 2 died trauma.
10 (22)	On	Yes	Yes	N/A	Yes	Own	Yes	Damaged tanks vented air. Successful rescue of 2 others.
9.5 (21)	On	No	No	Nil	Yes	Employer	Yes	Used small "get-home" ungauged tank to dive narrow dark area. Poor air supply from tank. Solo. Inexperienced.
7 (15)	On	No	No	Low	Yes	Hired	Yes	End of course dive; instructor took no responsibility. Not in favour of strict buddy discipline, nor vests, nor contents gauges, nor surface cover. Separation. Solo. Speared cuttlefish. Out of air.
8 (17)	On	Yes	Yes Faulty	Ample	Yes	Own	Yes	Had previously dived this wreck. Separation on wreck. Twin tanks. Plenty of air. Buoyancy vest had defects. Nitrogen narcosis? Boat well prepared for diving, but no radio.
N.S	On	N/A	No	N/A	No	Employer	N.S	Pearlshell collecting. Suddenly pulled himself up line to surface. CAGE. Old and recent pleurisy noted.

MAY__1986

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	*3 LA CHAMPAGNE
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
*11 BASS POINT	12	13	14	15	*16 MAN & THE SEA =====	*17
*18 EXPO. =====	*19 CLUB MEETING	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 JERVIS BAY W'END =====	31

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JUNE__1986

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*1 J.B. W'END	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	*21 <u>SEAL</u>
*22 <u>ROCKS</u>	*23 CLUB MEETING	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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