THE WET RAG

JANUARY 1989

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

*** A REMINDER THAT CLUB FEES ARE NOW DUE. SO PAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB.***

THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: JIM SMITH PH-570 4283 (H)

SECRETARY: JOHN MCDEMOTT PH- 726-0982

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER: GRAHAM WAKELING PH-603-4224 (H) 605-1611 (W)

TREASURER: KATHY MCDERMOTT PH 726-0982 (H) 727-0177 (W)

SOCIAL SECRETARY: PENNY SMITH PH-759 4176 (H)

PUBLICITY OFFICER: NEIL KOOS PH-587-9030

DIVE ORGANISER : NOEL TAYLOR PH 78-6792 (H)

If you need to post anything to the club our address is:

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS
P.O. BOX 823
BANKSTOWN 2200.

Meetings are held every third Monday of the month at the Bankstown Sports Club in Greenfield Pde Bankstown. Time is 8.00pm in the Function Room. Members and visitors all welcome. Come early and eat in the Bistro downstairs.

MINUTES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB MEETING HELD 27/11/88 AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB.

Apologies: Ilona Kandilas

Minutes: Minutes read from the previous meeting and accepted by Bruce Gardiner and seconded by Jim Allen.

Correspondence: IN- Sea Safety Update, Ryde Underwater Club, Fun Dive Underwater Club, Brisbane Waters Aqualung Club.

OUT- Nil

Treasurers's Report:

Opening balance	$758
Add: deposits for month	$866
less: payments for month	$112
Closing balance	$1512
Interest bearing deposit	$3306
Total funds	$4818

Accepted Lyn Vincent and seconded Martin Kandilas

Dive reports:

Lyn and Neil Vincent dived the 'steps' at Kurnell and had a good dive; lionfish, jellyfish and lots of macro.

Penny and Doug Smith, Rob Tickling and family and friends dived Bushrangers Bay. reports of more divers than fish (apparently a treasure hunt was happening). Lousy visibility but a good dive anyway.

The Club weekend to Currarong went well(in most regards). The weather was good except for the rain and strong winds. The diving was good except for the cold water and poor viz. The plaque, well that is another story but suffice to say we will have another go with some lessons learnt in underwater cement pouring.By the way 67 people turned up to make it a great weekend so thanks to you all.

The recent club weekend to Norah Head was enjoyed by all those who

attended. Diving on the Saturday was at Norah Head and unfortunately viz was poor but there was lots of small critters to make up for the poor visibility. Sunday's dive was at the cave at Terrigal and reports were that it was fairly barren but macro life was good.

UPCOMING DIVING:

Two Bristol Point weekends are booked for 1989. Numbers are limited so let Penny Smith know if you are going. Dates are as follows-

4th and 5th of February.
11th and 12th of March.

Cost: $10.00 MEMBERS
$15.00 NON MEMBERS
$10.00 NON MEMBERS CHILD OVER 5 YEARS
FREE NON MEMBERS CHILD UNDER 5 YEARS
FREE MEMBERS CHILD

Birchgrove Park and Valiant will be attempted again (weather conditions permitting)

No further general business, meeting closed 9.00PM

Slides were then shown.

SOUTH PACIFIC NOTES.

* Well 1989 is finally here and it is probably time to look over the things that have happened back in 1988. The Australasian Underwater Photographer of the year went off very successfully and was won by Kevin Deacon who has been a consistent entrant and placegetter over the years. Congratulations to him and all those involved with the night. Not forgetting Noel Taylor's win in the Novice Section.

* All of the club weekends were well supported especially the attempted plaque laying weekend. Hope this continues in 1989.

* A good turn up at the Xmas party and I think all those who attend had a great time. It was good to see people up and dancing and enjoying themselves.

* The dive on the Birchgrove Park and Valiant finally went ahead even though there were still not the best conditions available, maybe in 1989 this dive can be done again.

* While on the subject of wrecks we had a good attendance at the wreck seminar and thanks to all those involved.

* Probably the best thing I have noticed is the increase in new

members which is probably indirectly related to the A.V night and its continuing success. There seems to be more members turning up for each meeting even though there have been some problems with the meeting room at the Sports Club during the year. Hopefully all these problems will be resolved later this year.

* We still have the continuing problem of lack of articles for the newsletter. Anything would be appreciated and thanks to those who made contributions during the past year.

* While on the subject of the newsletter everybody will be pleased to know that El Presidente Jim Smith will have a section in each month's newsletter starting from February. I am sure everyone will look forward to his words of wisdom!!!! and wit. Stay tuned for more details.

* One club member has started the new year on the right track with the purchase of a new boat. I think the spark plugs got dirty on the old one so it was time for a change.

* Well the diving over Xmas could be described in one word 'lousy' unless you were in New Guinea or the Coral Sea. Two places I was unfortunately not at, but the New Years Eve seafood extravaganza at Callala will be fondly remembered by all those who participated.

* While on the subject of seafood and Jervis Bay any person who happens to mention 'kingfish' and size thereof to Brian (PISTOL-but not Pt Perp.) Colwell is in for a long story. Fortunately the fish did not get away and Brian will be talking about his 'kingie' for a long time. I think with a wife expecting and the spearing of the fish Brian has had a good 1988.

* The next club meeting is on Monday the 17th of January at the usual venue of Bankstown Sports Club at 8.00pm.

* The editor of this magazine apologizes for the non appearance of a newsletter in November and December but all problems have now been solved so I look forward to a bigger and better 1989 for the newsletter.

* Entries for the george Roberts Trophy are now being taken. Contact graham Wakeling for details. A great contest for photographers with good prizes to be won.

* Best wishes for 1989 and a year of good and safe diving to be had by all from the S.P.D. committee.

Care of a Dive Light

CARING FOR YOUR DIVE LIGHT

Whether diving at home or far away, experienced divers know that anything taken underwater will eventually flood or deteriorate. Purchasing top quality equipment is the first and most singular step toward insuring years of long product life. Also, of great importance is proper care and maintenance. Take note of the following to see that you get the most from your dive light.

LAMPS

Lamps are specifically designed to work in conjunction with a particular battery. If battery voltage is higher than optimum, lamp life will be shortened. Lower voltage will result in a yellowish beam. Therefore, use only the recommended replacement lamps. If a different lamp must be used, select one with a rated voltage the same as, or slightly less than the specified lamp.

Freshly charged rechargeable batteries and new alkalines put out a higher than normal voltage. To preserve your lamp, turn the light on for several minutes to drain down the batteries before repeatidly switching the light ON and OFF.

Two last points. Clean fingerprints off the glass portion of the lamp to insure the bulb does not smoke or even melt. Secondly, all lamp filaments are fragile. Prevent breakage by avoiding sharp jolts.

DISPOSEABLE BATTERIES

For best results, use only alkaline batteries in nonrechargeable lights. Heavy duty batteries will work almost as well in lantern battery lights. Store disposable batteries at moderate temperatures (35° to 70° F). Avoid freezing and temperatures over approxomately 110° F.

SEALED LEAD-ACID RECHARGEABLE LANTERN BATTERIES

To obtain maximum charge cycles (over 100) and burntime, several rules should be followed. Do not fully discharge the battery. Turn the light off and recharge the battery within 24 hours when brightness begins to fall rapidly. Store batteries at roughly -20° to 70° F. Always charge batteries before storage and every 6 months thereafter. After charging, batteries can be stored in the freezer for over one year without recharging.

To tell if the battery is fully charged, charge it for the time specified on the instructions, or while connected to the charger, measure the voltage on a volt meter. When fully charged the meter will read 7.2 to 7.4 volts. Do not overcharge the battery.

NICAD RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

For a maximum number of charge cycles (over 500) and longer burn time, adhere to the following suggestions. Do not fully discharge a nicad battery pack. Turn the light off when the beam turns yellow.

Batteries should be stored approximately below 110° F. Generally 50° to 60° F is best. Cold storage has little benefit.

There are only two practical methods to determine if a nicad pack is fully charged. Make sure that it has been on charge for the time specified or feel the pack to see if it is getting warmer. The temperature of a nicad will rise when it reaches capacity.

Nicad burn time will vary. A new pack usually reaches full capacity after 20 to 30 charge cycles. However, 2 to 3 charges will do most of the job. Charging at room temperature is normal, however, the closer to 32° F. the battery pack is charged, the longer the burn time. After months of storage, the pack may have to be recharged to reach full capacity. If a nicad pack is partially discharged to the same point many times in a row, it will develope a "memory" and reduce the light's burn time. This "memory" can be erased by several "training" cycles of running the light down to a yellow beam and then recharging. If a nicad has not been used for many months, recharge before switching ON the light.

O-RINGS

The main cause for flooding is an improperly seated o-ring. Before each dive check to be sure the o-ring is making solid contact between the two sealing surfaces. A properly seated o-ring is visible through clear plastic as a solid, unbroken black line.

After a dive, without getting water into the light, rinse the sand and salt water from o-ring areas with fresh water. Completely dry and then reseal after lightly coating the o-ring with silicone grease.

FLOODING

If your light floods, follow these steps.

1. Turn light OFF.
2. Drain water from light. **Do not reseal case until light is completely dry and the catalyst is replaced.**
3. Determine cause of flooding. Most flooding is due to incorrectly sealing the case or improperly seating the o-ring.
4. Rinse with fresh water and **dry all components completely.**
5. If light is not easily repairable, return to factory.
6. If light appears repairable, fix or replace water damaged parts. **Replace catalyst or component containing catalyst before resealing case** (see CATALYST below). Assemble light and turn ON. If light still does not work, return to factory for repair

CATALYST

All dive lights have an air tight seal which restricts the venting of hydrogen gas that could cause the light to burst. *There is no difficulty if a hydrogen removing catalyst is present in the battery case.* Most dive lights manufactured in the United States and some of the imports contain a hydrogen catalyst.

There are three important items to remember.

1. **When purchasing a light be sure it contains a hydrogen catalyst.** All Underwater Kinetics lights contain hydrogen catalysts. The catalyst is located on the battery in the Aqua-Sun II, Mini Aqua-Sun, UK1200R, and UK600R. It is located behind the circuit board of the UK1200 and UK600. All Q-LITES contain hydrogen catalysts in the reflector assembly.
2. **If the light is flooded, replace the hydrogen catalyst before resealing.**
3. **If your light has the hydrogen catalyst attached to the battery, be sure any replacement battery has a hydrogen catalyst.**

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Be sure to check the obvious if your light fails to operate. Make sure the lamp is secure in the socket, the filament is not broken, the battery is charged, and there is full power to the location where the sealed lead-acid or nicad battery charger is plugged.

If difficulties still persist, use a volt-ohm meter to check the battery, charger, lamp, and circuitry.