



SEPTEMBER 1989

Scuba deaths study shock

By JANE
SOUTHWARD
Health Reporter

ONE in four people who died while scuba diving in Australia and New Zealand should never have dived because they were medically unfit, a new survey has found.

The study by Sydney diving medicine specialists, Dr Carl Edmonds and Dr Doug Walker, also found nine times as many men as women died scuba diving. Dr Edmonds said the study of 100 diving deaths between 1981 and 1987 was the first to analyse Australian and New Zealand scuba deaths in detail.

Only recreational divers were included in the study, which looked at autopsy reports and the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

The study, commissioned by the International Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, found:

- 25 deaths involved people who should never have dived. These included divers with asthma and heartbeat irregularity.

- 9 of the 100 divers had been told they were unfit to scuba dive. Some went to another doctor for a medical certificate, some dived without one.

- 8 of the 100 divers died on their first dive, some without instruction and others without a medical check-up.

- 9 times as many men died diving as women, although the ratio of male to female divers was about two to one.

- 13 divers died from a burst lung, the most common medical cause of diving death.

- Only one in seven divers remained as genuine buddy divers — this means diving in pairs and keeping your partner in sight at all times for safety.

MEETING OPENED 8.15 PM 21/08/89 BY JIM SMITH
BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB

Apologies: Peter Stratford, John Mcdermott, Neil and Lyn Vincent, Lyn Keller.

Minutes of Previous meeting read and accepted.

Correspondence: Letters from Aquasea Products, Sea New Guinea, Ryde Underwater Club, Fun Dive and Brisbane Water Aqualung Club. Letter from Mark Spencer and Neil Vincent. Discussion on correspondence in general business.

Accepted : M.Kandilas
Seconded : G.Browne

Dive Reports:

* G.Wakeling dived Bass Point

* M.Kandilas, Bob Nickling and Penny Smith dived Tuggerah. Met Peter Stratford and friends at dive site. They had just finished their dive. report was that viz was 100' ????? Strong current all the way to the bottom. Bob Nickling had to catch up with Martin and Penny on the bottom after helping them gear up. 100' viz was a slight exaggeration. More likely 25'. Quite a nice dive despite the conditions. Penny was terrorizing wobbegongs.

Photographic Officer's Report:

1. Rules for next year's comp need to be revised and formalised.
2. Sponsorship also needs to be formalised by October 1989. This deadline set by Scuba Diver magazine due to their printing deadlines.
3. Club should consider direction in which A.V. is heading.
4. Next year's A.V. tentatively booked for 23rd June 1990. This is earlier but needs to precede Dive and Travel show at Darling Harbour.

Treasurer's Report:

See attached sheets for details.

Accepted : R.Latimer
Seconded : W. King

General Business:

1. Mark Spencer letter:

G.Wakeling will reply to letter. Rules to be amended so that this situation could not happen again. Entrants to supply details of how shot was taken so this information can be given to judges.

Pat Manly made the comment that there should be a separate category for manipulated slides. Any doubtful slides should be checked by the Photographic Officer before day of judging. Mark Spencer will be able to enter the slide in next year's competition.

2. Sea New Guinea Letter. - copy included with newsletter.

a. Club should decide in which direction A.V. is heading.

b. Rick Latimer moved a motion that 1) letter should be included in newsletter for comment by club members at next meeting and 2) club members direct their thoughts towards the continuation of the A.V. after 1990.

c. Club to send a delegation to meet with Owen Coney from Sea New Guinea and discuss contents of letter with him.

Seconded : Doug Smith

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Neil Vincent Letter.

- As the club has no formal constitution the letter cannot be acted upon.

END OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1988/89 COMMITTEE STOOD DOWN AND ELECTIONS WERE HELD FOR ALL POSITIONS

Your new committee is as follows:

PRESIDENT - Martin Kandilas Ph: 7263570 (H) 7260022 (W)

SECRETARY - Jenny Mines Ph: 6029851 (H) 6008844 (W)

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER - Graham Wakeling Ph: 6034224 (H) 6051611 (W)

TREASURER - Davinia Nickling Ph: 6452315 (H)

SOCIAL SECRETARIES

& DIVE ORGANISERS - Sue Keller Ph: 6445862 (H) 5171966 (W)
Lyn Keller Ph: 6445862 (H)
Peter O'Grady Ph: 5206955 (H) 5261188 (W)

PUBLICITY OFFICER - Ron Mines Ph: 6029851 (H) 6023544 (W)

The new committee was immediately involved with a controversial issue when Pat Manly moved a motion banning the deliberate use of dead animals as photographic subjects for the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Awards.

The motion was seconded, voted upon and approved.

Bruce Gardiner moved another motion which was seconded and carried which recommended that the photo comp rules be revised, formalised and submitted to the club at the next meeting for discussion.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 21/8/89

BALANCE IN CHEQUE ACCOUNT AS AT 10/8/89	1,243.48	
<u>INCOME</u>		
CLUB BADGES	35.00	
MEMBERSHIP FEES	585.00	
CLUB STICKERS	6.00	
CLUB SLOPPY JOES	240.00	
T-SHIRTS	51.09	
SOCIAL NIGHTES	760.00	
DIVE FEE'S	1374.19	
RAFFLE	529.01	
RAFFLE AV	1728.94	
AV TICKETS	9967.00	
AV ENTRIES	975.00	
INTEREST	66.38	
MISC	21.00	
AV POSTAGE		
AV RAFFLE CHANGE	365.18	
TOTAL INCOME	16,703.79	
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
PRINTING SOCIAL	55.50	
POSTAGE	219.42	
RAFFLE PRIZES	182.47	
PURCHASES SLOPPY JOES	119.85	
STATIONERY	34.45	
CHRISTMAS CATERING	1065.00	
DIVING EXP	1229.98	
DONATIONS	-	
MEMBERSHIP SPONSOR	-	
IN CLUB TROPHIES	18.00	
MISC	68.95	
REPAIRS TO PROJECTOR	7.95	
VIDEO TAPE	365.18	
AV RAFFLE CHANGE	9469.67	
AV EXPENSES	5000.00	
TRANSFER TO INVESTMENT A/C	30.95	
BANK CHARGES		
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,867.37	
BALANCE AS AT 21/8/89		79.90
PLUS CASH ON HAND		20.00
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	3306.12	
PLUS INTEREST	295.33	
PLUS DEPOSIT	5000.00	
LESS BANK CHARGES	0.08	
TOTAL INVESTMENT	8,601.37	
<u>TOTAL OF FUNDS</u>		<u>8,701.27</u>

BANK STATMENT AS AT 21.8.89

844.69

LESS UNPRESENT CHEQUE 306691
306692
306693
306694
306695

47.00
181.69
316.90
163.70
55.50

79.90

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Xmas party will be held at Bankstown Sports Club in the Emelie McDonald function room, on 8th December, 7.00 p.m. Disco provided, bar at members cost. Please let social secretaries know as early as possible if you can attend as a firm booking is required two weeks before.

Cost is \$16.00 each for SPD members
\$21.00 each for non members

Also the committee is looking at an up-market venue for our Xmas party, for next year. Details will be available at next club meeting. Any members suggestions welcomed.

A day dive on 8th October aboard a charter boat is being organised, to dive a better quality dive site.

Another day dive from shore is being arranged for 29th October. Suggestions required.

A night dive again from a charter boat, is also being investigated, probably in early December.

A dive weekend has been planned for 24-26/11/89 at Greenpatch. The site booked has provision for 20 people maximum, so get in early, should be a top weekend. Bar-B-Q provided Saturday night. This weekend could be assigned for laying the Bob Smith Memorial Plaque.

Cost \$12.00	SPD members
\$15.00	non-members

FOR SALE

Underwater Sea-Tite flash housing with Sunpak 3600 flash - \$200.00 o.n.o. Phone Bob White - 527-2576

Oceanic wetsuit (black/pink) Size 10 ladies.
Pro-Sub (black/yellow) AV style buoyancy vest. Medium size.
Price negotiable. Ring during business hours
- Catherine McKeachie - Ph: 517-1966.

The A.V. night

You know I really hate writing because its like work to me but the issue is important and needs careful consideration. I refer to the motion raised at the last meeting that the Club look to the future with regard to both the competition and presentation night. To use a old expression, its time, 1990 is the 10th anniversary, and this, together with suggestions from our major sponsor makes it a opportune moment to examine where we are going with the night. I want to make it clear that I'm not arguing for or against any specific direction and possibly I'm just trying to clarify my own thoughts on the subject.

Lets look back at the original concept of the competition, at least as I recall it. S.P.D. had run a N.S.W. comp in the early seventies which was quite successful but lapsed for reasons which I can't recall now. What restarted the Clubs current comp series was a invitation to a slide night by the north shore u/w photographic club. A very successful night but I recall Smithy saying the standard of photography was poor. Smithy had completed the Club A.V. and we decided on a bit of oneupmanship which resulted in our own slide night at Revesby Workers. It went so well that the idea to resurrect a comp came up. This was done for several reasons as I recall. We'd made some money, sure, but the most important reason was that the Club was in a decline and it was thought membership could be increased and we could involve Club members in a common purpose to sustain their interest

On reflection it worked, at times brilliantly, other times may be not so well, but at no stage can it be said that the A/V night was badly done through lack of members effort. Certainly its not been easy and problems occurred through differing opinions but that has to be expected when people voluntarily commit themselves to a demanding project. The sad part has been the burn out factor to some of our best members due to either the load or to personal differences. The good part, which never ceased to amaze me personally, was the high degree of expertise and talent uncovered in Club members in the organisation and production of the A/V night.

There are at least four options that should be considered as follows,

- 1 Cancellation. The Club has made a major contribution to U/W photography and diving over the past nine years. The 10th year is a convenient time to stop the Clubs involvement with a justifiable well done and a feeling of pride in what the Club has accomplished. The A/V night is costly, not just in terms of money but more importantly in members time. In fact if you look at just the money side we are on the debit side of the ledger. The Clubs social and diving program has suffered to the detriment of members interests. With a few notable exceptions support from the local Sydney dive scene can be described as poor and you need that support to put the proverbial bums on seats. Our national dive publications appear extremely parochial and, considering we are a non aligned and non professional club, their lack of support in pushing the competition to further the sport of diving in this country reflects on their professionalism.

2 Continue as is. The A/Y night is a major event in the dive calendar each year and continues to improve its position as such. Thanks to fine committee work over the last couple of years, we are becoming a recognised event overseas. [and I don't consider myself as a committee member in that time] The dive industry leaders have shown by their considerable support that the event is worthwhile and there is support for the competition throughout all states as evidenced by entrants this year. This doesn't mean that the same format is followed year in and year out. You could have, for example, a dinner/dance with one key speaker and the competition presentation only, then change to something different the next year. One idea I heard recently was to show the competition slide presentation at DITA each year. This would raise the profile of the night considerably, benefit our sponsors, as well as overcome our publicity problem to some degree.

We'd also have to look at the club organisation in running the night so as to distribute the work load. It seems ludicrous that the committee has to accept the task of running both club activities and the A/Y night. There is a lot of experience in club members to utilise, may be not for a complete section such as publicity, but for portion of that, like W.A. club publicity. The old saying is still true, many hands make light work. there is a lot of fine tuning to set up to minimise the workload but it can be made easier.

3 Competition Only Another idea raised was to just run the competition itself. This could be done in conjunction with another event such as DITA. or have a professional organise the actual presentation night. It could also be done in conjunction with a magazine as the focal point. Obviously there would have to be consultations with interested people but it could be very easy. Possibly you could run, the competition only, one year and have a A/Y night the next year.

4 Explore new worlds. Our major sponsor suggested going international and it is possible. Certainly I will be very interested to hear his thoughts on the matter, particularly as to organisation, publicity, and that very important airline sponsor. I can envisage at least 18 months minimum to set up and I would hate to see our Australian photographers submerged by overseas entrants. Perhaps the novice section be kept as is and the open goes international. Alternatively another division could be made to a different format. I'm not even sure if there is a highly successful international competition at present but that's only my parochial attitude showing through. Possibly the concept isn't as difficult as we first imagine.

I believe the time to make the decision is now but that decision should be one based on a full appreciation of the situation and not on a knee jerk reaction.. By now I mean this year rather than the next meeting as such. I'm sure other members have their own thoughts on the A/Y night and I'm looking forward to hearing them.

RICK LATIMER



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7/16/89

**THE COMMITTEE
SOUTHPACIFIC DIVERS CLUB
P.O. Box 823
BANKSTOWN 2200.**

Dear Sir,

We, Air Niugini, Walindi Plantation, Kaivuna Hotel, Rabaul Dive Center and Sea New Guinea would like to thank you for the opportunity of participating, again, as sponsors in the 1989 Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Awards.

As you are aware our participation over the years has been relatively low key in terms of the promotional return we get from the event - at the request of you, the committee. This stems directly from the outset of our participation and also that at the time of our first involvement diving promotion and events such as yours were "low key" and intended as a once a year gathering of divers for pleasure and "mutual admiration". To date, I am sure you would agree we have respected your wishes.

Unfortunately nothing stands still. The diving industry and especially dive travel is a growing and profitable part of the over all dive market and whilst we would like to remain to be seen as benevolent low profile sponsors there is a lot of pressure on us from various areas to change the status quo.

To this end we would like the committee to consider the following possibilities and respond in the positive or offer an alternative solution. When considering these possibilities please keep in mind that our sponsorship as of this year now represents in real terms approximately \$10,000 which possibly represents more than the total value of all other sponsorship at this event. Also keep in mind that the total combined value of your sponsorship places these awards in the highest value category of any similar event anywhere else in the world. Within the travel industry it is unusual to obtain such a level of sponsorship without blatant commercial representation and endorsement.

Because of the above we consider that you are underestimating the value of the night and the impact it could have if the scope of the event was broadened to include more than Australasia, by geographical interpretation, Australasia covers a large area, yet except for two of the dive magazines there is, as far as we are aware no promotional input to these other areas.

The promotion that is done is short lived, not far enough in advance, of a very amateur standard and does an injustice to the sponsors and your event. This possibly occurs because of the "everybody" knows about it anyway" syndrome.

Our area of influence and involvement has changed to the point where we are now in contact with and making travel arrangements for as many Europeans and American divers and underwater photographers as we do for Australians. We feel that the scope for entry should be opened up to include these areas, you may be surprised at the response, not only in entries but also the number of people who would travel to the night from these areas.