

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD
ON 17 JANUARY, 1994
AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB**

Meeting was opened by Ron Mines at 8.15 p.m. (Ron was standing in for Leo Bergagnin who was away at Eden).

APOLOGIES: Leo Bergagnin, John Beddie, Ilona Kandilas, John Fowden, Eddy Labour, Paul Wildish, Peter Booth, Garry Hewitt.

VISITORS: John Sumner, Glenn Townsend, Brian Poyzer, Nick Nash, John Fardoulis.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE:

Ryde Underwater Club "Surface Interval", Uni. of NSW "Devious Undercurrents", UTS "No Douts", Underwater Research Group "Bulletin", Brisbane Waters Aqualung Club "Demand Valve Vibes", Sydney University U/W Club, correspondence from Sportdiving regarding their Club subscription offer. Replies from Govt. departments re Jervis Bay and sand mining letters.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Terese Mayer has sent correspondence and newsletters to new members, etc. Letter to Bankstown Sports Club confirming booking.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Leo Mayer gave the Treasurer's Report. Accepted by Brian Colwell, Seconded by Ross Hipwell. Copies of 4 month breakdown of income and expenditure and December reconciliation was available on the night for members information.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER'S REPORT:

Joe Ingegneri covered the Club's **George Roberts Photographic Competition**. There will be a new approach this year with entrants being given rolls of Kodak Ektachrome film. Cost of entry is \$15.00. The rolls of slide film will be distributed through the week and they are to be returned by the March Club meeting and then processed by Kodak at North Ryde. The entrants can select which of their marked slides to enter and judging will be held in April. It's envisaged that judging may be held at Kodak's North Ryde facility. Kodak have offered the Club to conduct its George Roberts slide presentation night in their auditorium if required. This will be in May.

First Prize in the George Roberts **Open Section** will be 5 nights accommodation at Coffs Harbour with 6 boat dives at Solitary Islands sponsored by Dive Quest. **First Prize** in the **Novice Section** will be 5 nights accommodation and 6 dives at South West Rocks sponsored by South West Rocks Dive Centre.

Joe then covered the points about the **Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Competition** for this year. The Presentation Night will be held at Bankstown Sports Club this year at a cost saving of \$1,000. However, mainly due to our preferred date in July already being booked by another group, and having Greg White from Corporate Theatre to inspect the venue, we've had to select the 24th September for our presentation night. This hopefully wont be too dramatic a change as it will give extra time for more entrants to participate in the competition and obviously the quality and selection of slides and videos entered will only improve upon those from last year. It will also be a more accessible time for an Australian or overseas guest speaker at the presentation night.

Rose Reddin has also moved to Revesby Workers Club and to book there would cost us \$2,000. Bankstown Sports Club will only cost \$1,000.

DIVE / SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT:

- The Night Dive on Max Western's Sea Tamer II was postponed to this coming Wednesday 19 January. There are 2 spots left available. Call Joe if interested. Meet at 7.00 p.m. Dolans Bay Wharf.

- Another Night Dive is scheduled for Wednesday 2 February. Names were taken at the meeting.

PLEASE CONTACT JOE ON 018 862 328 OR 743 3710 IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GO ON THIS DIVE OR BE PLACED ON THE RESERVE LIST IN CASE PEOPLE DROP OUT. **THIS WILL BE A REGULAR DIVE ORGANISED AT EACH CLUB MEETING.**

- Weekends away:

- The Eden trip is on this weekend 22/23 January. A group of 12 club members will be there. Leo Bergagnin and John Beddie have also been diving Eden through the week.

- South West Rocks was originally scheduled for 5/6 February but has now been postponed to 12/13 March. If people were still wanting to go up in February there are spots available. Just contact Joe for information.

- Malloway (Coffs Harbour) is scheduled for 19/20 February and is mostly booked up already.

- There is a Day Trip planned for 13 February diving Bass Point. 2 dives are scheduled. Rick Latimer said that Debbie Sanderson has offered to have a Bar-B-Q at her place at Bulli for those who go down the coast for the dive. Please contact Joe on 018 862 328 or Leo Mayer on 708 5742 (a/h) if you are thinking of going.

- The Club Boat Dive is for this Sunday 23 January. Joe will be down at Eden that weekend but asked boat owners for dive site suggestions.

- Joe reminded members about the DINNER AND WINE TASTING at Bankstown RSL Friday 25 February. It will be \$30.00 per head which gives you a 5 course meal and 5 different wines with the meal, plus port ! Please call Joe on 018 862 328 or Terese Mayer on 708 5742 if you are interested.

- A Club Bar-B-Q is to be held Saturday 5 March at Russell Stoker's place: 36 Hanks Street, Ashbury. Please RSVP to Joe Ingegneri on 018 862 328 or Terese Mayer on 708 5742.

DIVE REPORTS BY MEMBERS:

Martin Kandilas spoke about his dive on the Birchgrove with Rick. Martin took the boat out from Silverwater and down the harbour without topping up the fuel. He now knows the locations of fuel depots all around the harbour ! Martin also saw a porthole. There was about 40-50 ft. viz on the bottom and the water was 24 deg. on the surface. After the dive Martin came up slowly and while decompressing, looking down he saw a Mako about 4½ ft. long. He thought it couldn't be a shark or king fish and when the little Mako turned straight on it looked identical to a white pointer (or blue pointer). Martin descended from 10 mtr to 35 mtr. to check it out (actually doing this about 2/3 times !). Martin and Rick had a flat sea run all the way home. Postscript to Martin's dive: he developed barotrauma and ruptured his ear drum and will be unable to dive for about 8 weeks.

Rick then spoke about the Birchgrove dive. He said slow ascents are well and good but he and Martin had the same bottom profiles with their Aladin Pro dive computers. Rick tends to leave the bottom fast (in this case 170 ft.) - taking into account the curve of the anchor line, till about half way, but Martin does a slow ascent right from the bottom. Between the two of them Martin ended up with an extra 6-7 minutes difference. Rick said Martin then pays the penalty with added decompression time.

Rick reported that the Birchgrove wreck is now breaking up and the mid section is deteriorating. The boiler is exposed and the whole side is completely fallen in.

DIVE REPORTS BY MEMBERS (CONTINUED):

Martin then brought up about his "charter boat dive from hell" but he has covered this in a dive report to be printed in the newsletter. He's sure there would have been a potentially lethal situation that day. Martin did see a dusky whaler up close; 7-8 ft green/grey as it cruised in, then turned, stopped and turned back. He said it would of been a great full frame 15ml. shot but he didn't have his camera !

David Bilbow had 2 dive reports about his recent trip to the Whitsunday Islands. He had an interesting boat trip with a particular dive operator. There were some intriguing cracks in the boat near the tanks. He dived in a cave and also saw 11 big grey nurses.

He has also recently dived off a 46 ft. yacht around Hamilton Island; overall he had an excellent time. Manta Ray Bay was great and you could put your hand over the side of the boat and big wrasse could come up.

Peter Jermyn spoke about his dives in October/November with H2O Sports around Hook and Bait Reefs. Peter had spent about 5 weeks around the Whitsunday islands, near Hamilton Island. He found the dive operator's service was good and they also threw in some free diving for him. Because of the currents the viz and diving time were limited. Peter saw some big crays, wrasse, angel fish, coral trout, plenty of corals and dived some nice walls.

Michael McFadyen, Eddy Labour and John Fowden had recently stayed at the 'Frog Lodge' Shellharbour. The accommodation was basic; no TV or radio and the weather was extremely hot. They did shore dives and found Bushrangers Bay boring. The Gravel Loader was a good night dive. The winds were changeable, it was rough on the south side of the point, strong N-E winds and then southerly on the other side, and it was too rough to get in. Because of the heat it felt like a sauna in their wet suits and Michael thinks he lost about 4/5 lbs.

Michael recently dived Barrons Hut after the Royal National Park bushfires. There was a raging current flowing from the north. There was about 20 mtr viz. and after coming back up they had to salvage the anchor as it had snapped because of the current. Someone queried if any tree markers were left after the fires. Apparently the Undola markers may have gone.

Russell Stoker gave a dive report on Halifax Park, Nelson Bay. There was good viz, an easy entry/exit and it was a nice easy dive. The viz was about 30 ft., there was lots of sea life: soft corals, sponges and plenty of fish. It was well worth the trip. Robyn Hewitt mentioned that Greg from Action Divers told her of a boat that can take you out to Broughton Island, staying \$10 a night in a cabin, taking all scuba gear. There are a couple of wrecks in the area, the Oakland and Macleay.

BJ had also done some dives at Port Stevens over the holidays, mainly night dives. BJ also dived the Shoals out from Port Hacking last Wednesday night, it was bumpy and roly getting out and the water looked dirty. At the bottom though it cleared to about 40/50 ft. viz. and he had an excellent dive. He saw shovel nose lobsters, some nice nudibranchs and what was probably a sea hare that was completely white.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

David Bilbow brought up about the diving regulations on Hamilton Island. A general discussion about the Queensland diving laws then followed. Leo Mayer mentioned how a particular 'scientific' wreck diving operator 'Sci-Dive' was put out of business because he was told to have a recompression chamber to do any diving instruction courses on the Pandora. Also, when the legislation was being proposed, the newspapers would print 'inaccurate' press releases from Vince Lester's office about diving related accidents. The stories made it sound like they were all happening at once when the incidents were really compiled and were a couple of years old.

GENERAL BUSINESS (CONTINUED):

Rules of Incorporation

A discussion then took place on the proposed motion to accept the Rules of Incorporation in their present form. BJ then argued that as he doesn't agree to them then they cannot be accepted when there are still questions and possible suggested changes to be made.

BJ brought up the insurance issue. Terese then give details of what the Club's insurance covers. The Third Party insurance does not provide member to member cover. Therefore there is a suggestion to add the Rule that boat owners have their own Third Party boat insurance.

Ron Mines then moved the following MOTION: That if anyone had suggestions for the Rules they are to put these in writing and submit them to the Committee. Any written submissions must be received by 28 February at the latest. These written submissions will then be discussed at the February club meeting and will be finalised then. After this meeting no further discussion will be entered into. Ron reiterated that submissions must be received in writing by 28 February, and anything after that date will not be accepted.

The MOTION was ACCEPTED by Gordon McDonald and SECONDED by Debbie Finlay.

The question of how much a Committee can spend was brought up by BJ. Lyn Keller (previous Treasurer) said that the A/V should be exempt from restrictions. The Committee places a budget on each A/V and works within that.

Terese reminded members that the February club meeting is on the 4th Monday - 28 February because Leo and Terese will be at Lady Elliot Island and Leo Bergagnin and Michael McFadyen will be at Truk Lagoon the previous week.

Ron mentioned that if the A/V is in September, then the AGM date may have to be postponed to a date after the A/V. This can be discussed at a later meeting.

MEETING CLOSED at around 9.30 p.m.

RAFFLE:

First prize of a trip on Max Western's Sea Tamer II and Kodak film was won by Sue O'Grady. Thanks to Max for the prize. Contact numbers for bookings on the Sea Tamer II are **567 2658** or **018 280 791** for the **B°AT PHONE**.

Second prize of 3 rolls of Kodak film was won by John Fardoulis and third prize of more Kodak film was won by Chris Wright.

SLIDE SHOW:

John Gordon then showed us his slides from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. They were all great shots and much appreciated on the night. There were a few people in the audience planning their next diving holiday to these locations.

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**DON'T FORGET OUR FEBRUARY CLUB
MEETING IS ON THE FOURTH MONDAY
28 FEBRUARY, 1994**