

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY 16 MAY, 1994  
AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB**

Visitors: Sylvia Adam, Joan Harper, Dr Peter Harper, Paul Barker, Les Caterson, Elly Caterson, Dr Bob Mansfield, John Sumner, Rob Westerdyk, Nick Nash, Dave Burns, Rolf Siggaard & Dorthe Siggaard.

**OPENING BY PRESIDENT:**

Leo Bergagnin opened the meeting. Tonight's meeting has special significance as we have our presentation of the George Roberts competition. Coincidentally it is 21 years to the month since the fatal accident at The Shaft. As a Committee we feel there should be more emphasis on our internal photo competition than there has been.

We have a special guest here tonight, Sylvia Adam who was one of the original foundation members of the Club back in 1962. Sylvia was the first Committee's Safety Officer. Also present tonight we are pleased to have Joan and Peter Harper.

It is also of interest that South Pacific Divers Club has been involved in photo comps since 1963. Leo B. hoped all present enjoy tonight's meeting.

**MINUTES FROM MEETING 18 APRIL, 1994:**

Terese said that as members have received the previous Minutes with the May newsletter, can they be taken as having been read. ACCEPTED by Martin Kandilas, SECONDED by Rick Latimer.

**INCOMING / OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**

INCOMING: Club newsletters have been received from Brisbane Waters Aqualung Club "Demand Valve Vibes", Uni. of Technology "No Douts", Uni. of NSW "Devious Undercurrents", Ryde Underwater Club "Surface Interval", Underwater Visual Producers Association. We have also received a letter from Paul Keating's office saying he is unable to be our guest presenter at the Australasian Underwater Presentation Night.

OUTGOING: Letters to people enquiring about the Club, follow up letters to sponsors and we have written to Richard and Tracy Morgan of High Tech Divers requesting them to be our guests at the June club meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ross Hipwell gave the Treasurer's Report. ACCEPTED by Gordon McDonald, SECONDED by Rick Latimer.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Leo Mayer spoke on the George Roberts Photo Comp. This year's George Roberts competition has been run differently than what it has in previous years. It has been a hard competition and an exciting competition. Unlike the Australasian photo comp. where a person can use twenty or more rolls of film to get just one slide to enter, this year with the George Roberts with only 2 rolls of film, every slide counted as a possible entry. So you have no room for bracketing, no waiting for 100 ft. visibility - you have to do the best you can in the period of time allotted. However, some very good photographers would have liked more time and didn't get their slides in on time. The rules of the comp. were set and it would have been unfair to the other entrants to extend the time for a certain few. I believe that their slides would have been very good but maybe next year, if the comp. is run on similar rules, we could start the competition early and extend the time by one month.

The judging was done by Michael Cufer. We used a similar set of rules of judging that were used in the 1991 Australasian competition. All slides were judged in five areas: Impact, Composition, Technical Aspect, Lighting and Creativity. As we went through the judging, Michael was very impressed at what the photographers were trying to do. He said on more than one occasion that he could understand the same thoughts that were going through the entrants mind. I would like to say that Michael didn't know any of the entrants names until after the judging was finished.

Leo said that every one who entered did a very good job and hoped a similar format is used next year and that we have more people entering, and try and make this event something to look forward to in the Club calendar.

This year we were lucky that Dive Quest Mulloway and South West Rocks Dive Centre have sponsored the winners of the Open and Novice sections, as well as Kodak for supplying and processing the film at half price. Leo took this opportunity to thank the sponsors very much. The winners will also receive a plaque or a certificate. Again, this competition has been worth entering and hoped we can do the same thing next year, but get a greater amount of people entering.

**SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT :**

- **FRIDAY 3 JUNE :** Be part of the audience of "LIVE & SWEATY" comedy programme at ABC TV. Be at the Gore Hill studio by 9.30 p.m. It's recommended you wear something bright and sporty - most will be wearing the Club shirts. (Some brave [foolhardy] members have suggested wearing mask and snorkel !).

## SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT (Continued):

- **'GOING AWAY PARTY' FRIDAY NIGHT 24th JUNE** (but really an excuse for a booze up !)  
Meet at the Thurlis Castle Hotel, Cnr. Cleveland Street & Balfour Street, Chippendale.  
For Joe, Nicole, Russell, Ben, Sue, etc. who will be leaving for a 6 week Barrier Reef and northern NSW diving holiday.
- Next **CLUB BAR-B-Q on Saturday 2nd JULY** - anytime after 4.00 p.m. is being held at Suzanne Evans house. BYO chair essential. Details will be advised in the newsletter.

## DIVE ORGANISER'S REPORT:

- **SUNDAY BOAT DIVE** this Sunday 22 May. Boat owners will be leaving from the Water Street boat ramp at around 8.00 a.m. John Fardoulos has spots available on his boat. BJ's boat is full. Members are asked to call the boat owners who are going.
- **SHIP ROCK NIGHT DIVE** this Tuesday 24th May on the king tide. Be at Ship Rock around 6.30 p.m.
- **SATURDAY SHORE DIVES** - if you are interested in shore dives just call either Joe on (018) 862 328 or 798 6936 (hm), or Leo Mayer on 708 5742 (ah).
- Regular **SUNDAY BOAT DIVES** - Call any of the club's boat owners for diving any weekend. Their phone numbers are listed in the newsletter.
- **WEEKENDS AWAY:**

*Note: There will be no 'southern' dive trips away through winter.*

- **FOSTER / SEALS ROCKS : Sat/Sunday 18-19 JUNE** at Foster/Seals Rocks with Ron Hunter.  
\$169 for 4 dives and accommodation. Contact Joe on (018) 862 328 or 798 6936 (hm).

## DIVE REPORTS BY MEMBERS:

Leo Bergagnin recently did a dive off Dee Why. He had problems with his dive computer and there was no 'low battery' warning and was jammed on 1.8 mtr. and then back to zero. Also his power inflator did not inflate. A discussion then took place about faults with dive computers due to battery failure. While diving Chuuk Lagoon John Fowden's Aladin Pro was stuck on 99.9 mtr.

Scott Leimroth did a dive on the Woniara with Max Gleeson. While near Captain Cook's landing spot he saw a destroyer and helicopter further south. Out from Botany Bay near the dive site, the destroyer then circled them and there was a lot of wash off their waves. They missed hooking onto the wreck the first time. The helicopter had a big torpedo and it appeared to be doing target practice. The destroyer was going around and they could hear sonar pinging. There was a flare in the water and then they saw a big submarine in the water about 10 ft. under Max's boat. Scott said he was glad they hadn't hooked on with the anchor as the sub was right under the boat. When they finally did the dive it was clear water and while at the decompression mark at 3 metres Scott looked down and saw a massive Tiger Shark only about 2-3 metres below him. Scott then went straight up to the boat and almost "sh...d himself" and freaking out said to Max there was a "f.....g big shark, and he would rather go to the chamber than stay on the deco line. The dive was certainly memorable for all the other things but the dive itself. Rick joked it was a submarine not a shark and Martin suggested a midget submarine. The depth of the dive was 63 metres.

Suzanne Evans spoke about the club weekend at Nelson Bay - diving and accommodation with Action Divers. There were 6 members who dived that weekend. Someone suggested the first dive be at the Oakland dive site which was in 26 metres but only had about 5 ft. viz. There were a lot of fish. The second boat dive was at Broughton Island with about 12-15 mtr. viz. On Sunday they did a shore dived at Halifax Park - fish galore, saw a dolphin and, overall, it was a great weekend.

Gary Ryder has recently returned from the Solomons Islands - said it was a great place and has excellent diving. You can dive from 10 metres to "no bottom" in places. The water was 30 deg. and the air temperature was also about 30 deg. Great fish life and coral. The dive operation is called Dive Solomons and the service was excellent. The dive shop was very basic - primitive and is next to the Guadecanal Club. You dived off little tin boats. Gary said the trip is well worth it. It was mentioned that one of the party went to 88 metres on straight air.  
*[Editor's note: The group of divers were with Bob Cason's mixed gas organised trip].*

Paul Aram spoke about his and Jeannine's recent 17 day trip to Fiji. Stayed at Mana Island and he only dived twice. During a 2 hour trip out of Pacific Harbour they saw tuna jumping out of the water and a bronze whaler was feeding behind them. Paul said you need a lot of money to dive there: \$70 single dive and \$80 for a night dive. There were mainly Japanese tourists/divers there. Paul took his own reg./mask and fins, but the equipment there is not the best. The diving conditions were good and it's well set up for tourists. You used BCD's but had no need for wet suits. Paul said it was expensive but would like to do it again. The snorkelling was also good but a lot of reef where they were had been damaged by cyclone.

## DIVE REPORTS BY MEMBERS (CONTINUED):

John Fardoulis dived Jervis Bay the weekend after the last meeting. Diving back from the Arch they lost a \$600 video light but luckily someone found it and handed it into the Pro Dive shop. John gave a bottle of Jim Beam to the person who found it. They also dived Drum and Drum Sticks.

The 75th anniversary of the sinking of the Tuggerah is Tuesday 17 May. There will probably be 3/4 charter boats taking out divers, including Max Western and Cape Bailey as well as numerous private boats. After this date it will be classified as an 'historical wreck'. Martin's quote: "Rat it till midnight".

## GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion passed unanimously: Members are asked not to bring their mobile phones or leave them on during the meetings.

*[One or two very childish adults, who should know better, intentionally kept interrupting the meeting by calling the numbers].*

Tickets to the Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year Presentation Night are now for sale and already 60/70 are pre-sold. There will be preference seating, so the earlier you get your tickets, the better the seats. Joe has booked 30 seats for members. Just call Joe if you want tickets on these tables. You could pay tonight or by next Club meeting. If tickets are paid for by 30 June each person has 2 chances in the Heron Island Dive Festival prize.

Ron Mines raised the matter of the 'Lyn Manly Encouragement Award'; suggested it be called the 'Lyn and Pat Manly' or the 'Manly Award'. Terese Mayer said that the Committee had already discussed this a couple of months back when discussing the A'sian Presentation Night and it had automatically been spoken about and agreed as the 'Lyn and Pat Manly Encouragement Award' by the Committee.

Terese mentioned that copies of the newsletter are available at the front, the Club Shirts are for sale at \$35 each and available at the front table. Stickers are \$1.00 and sew-on decals \$7. Kodak Ektachrome 100 film is also available at \$12.50 (normally approx. \$18 retail).

## RAFFLE:

First prize of dinner for 2 and a complimentary bottle of wine was won by Eddy Labour. This new raffle prize is sponsored by Selera Malaysian-Singaporean Restaurant, Level 1, 264 King Street, Newtown (ph: 557 5186).

Second prize of a trip on Max Western's Sea Tamer II was won by Joan Harper. 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**.

Third prize of 2 airfills was won by Robert Ranieri. Thank you to Leo & Leslie Hillyer of Ship Rock Dive for the prize.

## GUEST SPEAKER / PHOTOGRAPHER:

We were then honoured with a presentation of slides and a talk by Sylvia Adam. Back in 1962 Sylvia was a founding member of the Club and was the first Committee's Safety Officer.

Sylvia had some very interesting shots of early members diving exploits. Many were surprised to see how truly adventurous the divers were back in the sixties - from climbing down sheer cliff faces to find a dive site, to sink hole diving like The Shaft or Piccaninny Ponds and even ice diving up in the Snowies. As well as life member Dennis Robinson, Sylvia tried to recognise and name most of the early club members in the photos.

After the break the entries in the George Roberts Photo Comp. were shown. From a field of 14 entrants the competition was narrowed down to 4 entries in the Open and 3 for the Novice Section.

Novice winners were: Joe Ingegneri First Place and Best Wide Angle.  
John Szwecow for Best Portrait, Best Macro, Best Slide.

Open winners were: Michael McFadyen First Place, Best Wide Angle and Best Slide.  
Neil Vincent for Best Portrait and Brian Colwell Best Macro.

Congratulations to both the winners and entrants.

Thank you also to the sponsors of the comp. Dive Quest Mulloway and South West Rocks Dive Centre and Kodak.