

**MINUTES OF SOUTH PACIFIC DIVER'S CLUB, MEETING HELD ON MONDAY
19TH DECEMBER, 1994 AT BANKSTOWN SPORTS CLUB.**

OPENING: Club President, Leo Mayer welcomed members and visitors present.

APOLOGIES: Suzanne Evans, Eddie Labour, John Cassidy, Ross Hipwell, Ilona Kandilas.

MINUTES of meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd November, 1994:
Minutes sent to members in the second December newsletter.
Accepted by Gordon McDonald, seconded by Mark Spencer.

INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE: Leo Mayer.
Newsletters from other dive clubs.

OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE: Leo Mayer.
Christmas cards sent to sponsors of Australasian Underwater Photographer of the Year presentation night.

TREASURER'S REPORT: John Fardoulis.
There was \$421.00 incoming and \$1,265.45 outgoing for the past month. Outgoing amount included:
\$500.00 deposit for next A.U.P.Y. presentation night.
\$180.40 postage and stationery.
\$265.20 miscellaneous (including \$250.00 for taxation audit).

Accepted by Michael McFadyen and seconded by Gordon McDonald.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER'S REPORT: Peter Flockart.
George Robert's Perpetual Trophy: The George Robert's underwater photographic competition opens in January and closes at the March club meeting (20th March, 1995).
There will be no shootout this year, Kodak is not supplying film. A new individual category has been created in the competition. Certificates will be awarded for Best Macro, Wide angle and Wildlife slides.
1st Place in the Open category will receive 5 nights accomodation and 6 boat dives at the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve, donated by Dive Quest, Mullaway.
1st Place in the Novice category will be 5 nights accomodation and 6 boat dives at South West Rocks, donated by South West Rocks Dive Centre.

A.U.P.Y.: The competition rules for 1995 have been reviewed and 3 new rules have been included. A list of the rules have been enclosed with the minutes of the previous meeting.

The February edition of Sportdiving magazine will contain the entry form and rules of the competition.
Any questions, don't hesitate to see Peter.

New Products: The Italian Design Team have come up with a way of changing a Nikon lens underwater. This has been tested to a depth of 50 metres.

Nikonos has a new underwater sync cord on the market for SP102, SP103 and SP104 strobes.

DIVE ORGANISER'S REPORT: Geoff Cook and Scott Leimroth.

Geoff Cook proposed a different system to promote diving activities within the club. At each club meeting, members will be able to put their names down for future diving activities on sheets which will be located on the committee's table. This will give the dive organisers an indication of numbers and also of how many boats are available.

Upcoming Diving Activities: Geoff Cook.

Nelson Bay weekend, Sat/Sun 14 and 15 January. Double boat dive, Saturday. Shore dive Sunday. Accomodation \$20.00 P/P.

Contact Geoff or Leo Mayer (708 5742).

A chicken and champagne club boat dive has been organised for Sunday 22nd January, 1995, departing Dolans Bay boat ramp at 8:00am and diving Port Hacking (location to be advised).

Contact Geoff Cook for further details.

Geoff is also going to South West Rocks from 11-18th February, 1995. A number of campsites have been booked at Arakoon State Recreation Area. Put your name down if interested so that accomodation can be organised. For further details contact Geoff.

Barbara Sweetman is organising a trip down to Eden from 17-20th February, 1995. Contact Barbara for details.

Geoff Cook mentioned that now is a good time for the club to be getting back into a regular night dive with Max Western. Last week he did a dive at Barons Hut and had 50ft vis. Money up front is required for a dive on Max's boat.

DIVE ORGANISER'S REPORT: Scott Leimroth.

Jervis Bay multi club dive weekend including South Pacific Divers, Ryde Underwater, Underwater Research Group and Douts - Uni. of Technology is being held over 10-12th March, 1995. Three campsites have been booked including Bristle Point and Green Patch. Club member Martin Atkins lives in the Jervis Bay area and has accomodation and a boat. For details contact Scott Leimroth.

A trip to Jindabyne for a weekend of altitude diving has been organised for 18-19th March, 1995. For details contact Scott.

A trip to Nelson Bay has been planned for the Easter long weekend, 14-17th April, 1995. Contact Scott for details.

Clean Up Australia Day is on Sunday 5th March, 1995. The club will be doing their bit at Little Bay and will make a day of it with a BBQ as well. For details contact Scott or Suzanne Evans.

Scott proposed that the club start up a night dive on the 1st Monday of every month.

A club boat dive is planned for the 26th February, 1995. Location: Bass Point, Shellharbour and BBQ afterwards.

SOCIAL ORGANISER'S REPORT: Barbara Sweetman.

A night out is planned for this Thursday night, 22nd December at the Hellfire Night Club. Meet at the Gladstone Hotel at 10:30pm. Contact Barbara for details.

Barbara asked if any club members are interested in Aerobatic Stunt Flying. Denis Konstant, a club member, is a pilot. Anyone interested? Please contact Barbara.

Leo Mayer mentioned that "Meatballs" is back on 11th February, 1995, at Bankstown Sports Club. Anyone interested?

MEMBER'S DIVE REPORTS:

Leo Mayer has recently been down south to do some diving in Melbourne. He says there is some good diving which is well worth it. He dived 2 J-class submarines, one was completely intact and had 40-50 feet vis. The 4 J-class subs. were bought by the Aust. Govt. after WW1, refitted, had one naval exercise and then scuttled in the "Ships Graveyard". Leo went through Diver Instruction Services, Portsea, to organise his diving and the people were very friendly. Leo also dived Cape Conron in Victoria - reefs everywhere, some very good diving.

Scott Leimroth dived the Undola last Sunday. Really calm conditions and no current. Scott also recently dived Old Man's Hat and the Kurrajong in Sydney Harbour and also dived the Tuggerah.

Rick Latimer, Scott Leimroth, John Fardoulis and Martin Kandilas recently dived the Tuggerah. During the dive, Martin heard a thumping noise but didn't know what it was. Scott saw what he thought was a porthole and picked it up to find out it was a huge numbray. Scott put it down really quick and it didn't sting him. At this point in the proceedings Gordon Mc Donald intervened with "that would make your hair stand up!" obviously directed towards Scott. (could this be quote of the year??)

Rick Latimer, John Fardoulis and John Szwecow recently dived the Kelloe. The water was really clear. John S. set his camera up the night before to find out during the dive that the batteries were flat.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Leo Mayer extended a thankyou to all committee and club members who assisted with the club's Xmas Party at Cabarita Park on 17th December, especially Paul Aram (helped with cooking), Carina and Barbara.

Peter Flockart mentioned that he noticed in the Fish Column of the Telegraph Mirror on December 7th that fishermen were being asked to keep a watch out for divers in the Port Hacking area, where there were no dive flags up.

Martin Kandilas raised an item directed towards the Newsletter Editor, Michael McFadyen regarding the club's newsletter, The Wet Rag. Martin requested the following be included in minutes verbatim "insert text".

December 1994 Meeting

"The principal goal of a commercial publication like a magazine or newspaper is to provide an information service to readers, and of course, to gain revenue and make a profit. It follows that the principal job of the editor is to make sure that the editorial material published in the magazine is up to commercial standard. On occasions, necessary and occasionally significant changes have to be made. Hence the name "Editor" as not everyone is another Ernest Hemingway.

The SPD "Wet Rag" however, is not a commercial publication. It exists as a medium for the giving and exchanging of information, ideas and opinions of members of the club. In other words, it is, or more importantly, **should be** a forum for self-expression.

It doesn't matter if a member's article is not grammatically perfect, or the spelling or punctuation not fully up to scratch.

Most of us are not journalists or pseudo-journalists, we simply want to write to express our thoughts and experiences on diving.

And as readers, don't expect the articles to always be absolutely perfect, like those in "Dive Log" for instance.

A number of members have recently had items published in "Wet Rag", to find that significant and often totally irrelevant and unnecessary changes have been made. For all the editor knows, the person writing the article may have used particular punctuation marks, expressions or otherwise for very good reasons, and the author can get very annoyed to find that someone has decided to wipe it. If a sentence does not appear perfect in the eyes of the editor, who cares? The newsletter editor should **not** be the one to decide one way or the other. There are no bosses to impress here.

As a member of the club, I believe, (and I'm not alone) that when a member takes the time and effort to write an article, it **should be published exactly as it was written.** Spelling corrected perhaps, but nothing else.

If the grammar is not perfect, or the tense a little out of whack, so what! If it has already been typed, or submitted on disk, for example, and needs to be re-formatted, it should be transcribed exactly, or not at all.

And as for not putting more than 8 pages in the magazine because it's hard to fit into the envelopes, whose decision was that? The club magazine is to be a platform for the membership as a whole, not just the editor. If the club wants more members to submit articles, the current system has to change. The magazine should not to be used by the newsletter editor, or anyone for that matter, as a personal forum. It is for all the members."

Michael replied that a condition of taking on the position of Newsletter Editor is to enable him to have editorial control of the newsletter. He stated that no changes are made to member's contributions other than grammatical corrections. He also noted that Martin did not take this matter up personally with him.

John Fardoulis suggested that this matter should be dealt with at the next committee meeting with Michael.

Leo Mayer said Westpac S.L.S.A. rep. was to speak at January meeting, however John Fardoulis said he had a speaker on Mixed Gas Diving.

Leo Bergagnin mentioned that the Provincial Trader still hasn't been moved. Apparently there have been 3 attempts and each time the Trader has been picked up and dropped. Leo believes the roof has been cut off.

Leo Mayer mentioned that he heard that Peter Cochrane fought hard for it.

Leo Bergagnin said the matter had been mentioned in Hansard.

John Fardoulis advised that he had received a written apology from Aust. Camera Mag. regarding the publishing of winning photos or similar to winning photos using the S.P.D.C. A.U.P.Y. name, shortly after the presentation night. Aust. Camera Mag. has offered to supply a cash prize in next year's A.U.P.Y. as a token of their good faith.

Scott Leimroth then proposed a vote on rule 29(b) of the Rules of Incorp. It is proposed that this rule will be deleted as the resources of the committee are not sufficient to regularly inspect all 16 boats. It is considered that Clause 29(b) as it stands, is unworkable.

Michael McFadyen and Leo Bergagnin said there has not been 21 days notice to members. It was suggested that discussion on this matter should occur now and it should be voted on at the next meeting of the club.

One comment was: If the committee fails to inspect the boats they are making themselves liable however, the committee does not have the resources, unlike a government body.

Leo Bergagnin mentioned that Brent Hedges looked at ammendments in April, 1994.

Leo Mayer suggested to contact Brent Hedges.

Someone mentioned that he was unavailable (overseas).

Merridy Cairn-Duff suggested that contact should be made with Ryde Underwater Club, they have been through something similar with the M.S.B. and club boat.

Paul Aram then suggested that professional legal advice be sought re: liability of club if someone gets injured on club boat dives. He then proposed a motion to obtain professional legal advice regarding this matter. The motion was then accepted by Gordon McDonald and seconded by Mark Spencer. Motion carried (3 persons against).

Paul then commented that it is best to obtain professional advice - going to another club is not a good idea.

Martin Kandilas then mentioned there are a couple of firms specialising in Maritime Law in Sydney. Martin suggested he and Rick L. could follow up and then report back.

Martin also mentioned that John Sumner has a new book for sale entitled "Shipwrecks of the N.S.W. Central Coast" by Greg Berry. Martin proposed a motion to be put in writing for the next meeting that a time limit to be placed on people speaking at future club meetings.

Peter Flockart mentioned that there is a new telephone number for the Diver Emergency Service (DES): 1 800 088 200.

Leo Mayer declared the meeting closed.

RAFFLE:

1st prize of a weekend for 2 at Nelson Bay, compliments of Dive Nelson Bay Dive Shop,
1 year's subscription to Sportdiving Magazine,
3 rolls of Kodak slide film.

Won by: Greg Thompson.

2nd prize of a strobe filter from Kodak,
1 boat dive with Max Western's Sea Tamer 11,
Video - Nikon Guide to Underwater Photography.

Won by: John Beddie.

3rd prize of a Dive Computer Book compliments of Sportdiving Magazine,
3 rolls of Kodak slide film,
2 Free Airfills compliments of Shiprock Dive Shop.

Won by: Russell Stoker.

Thankyou to Dive Nelson Bay Dive Shop, Sportdiving Magazine, Kodak, Max Western and to Leo and Leslie Hillyer of Shiprock Dive for their support of the club raffle.
Congratulations to the Winners!!

Leo Bergagnin presented the nominations for **Club Member of the Year**.

The nominations are:

Barbara Sweetman,
Carina Gregory,
Scott Leimroth,
Russell Stoker,
John Fardoulis.

Russell Stoker was awarded with the prestigious title of Club Member of the Year for 1994 and was awarded a certificate.
Congratulations Russell!!

Rick Latimer then presented the award for **Committee Member of the Year**.

All members of the previous committee received a certificate in appreciation of their efforts throughout their year of appointment.

Not withstanding this, the voting was equal between two members of the previous committee for the title of "Committee Member of the Year".

Therefore both Leo Bergagnin and Therese Mayer were awarded with a plaque each in appreciation of their efforts.
Congratulations Leo B. and Therese M.

John Fardoulis then presented the **Funny Awards** for 1994.

Tall Story Award - Scott Leimroth.
Face of 1994 - Russell Stoker.
1994 Sleazemaster Award - Joe Ingegneri.
1994 Armchair Diver Award - Martin Kandilas.
1994 Shitstirrer Award - B.J.
1994 Driftdiver Award No1 - Leo Bergagnin.
1994 Driftdiver Award No2 - John Fardoulis. (Award presented by Barbara Sweetman).

Each of the above received a certificate in recognition of their efforts!

GUEST SPEAKER: Photographer/Club member, Merridy Cairn-Duff.
Merridy presented slides from her recent trip away to Cairns and on the Undersea Explorer, which ventured to the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea. Merridy certainly has an eye for detail as we were all greatly entertained by playing "Find the Shrimp" in each slide!
Thankyou Merridy, we all enjoyed your presentation.