
Minutes of the meeting of South Pacific Divers Club

Bankstown Sports Club, Monday 18 November 1996

Meeting opened 8.15pm, members and guests welcomed by Club President, Leo Bergagnin. Leo welcomed special guests Jean Claude Le Pechon from France and Des Walters from Albury who are both involved in the Transfield Airport Metro Project. A welcome was also extended to a visitor, Louise Ramson from Scotland.

Apologies: Eddie Labour, Shirley Wolfenden, Suzanne Evans, Ilona Kandilas and Geoff Cook.

Acceptance of previous Club minutes:

The previous minutes were accepted by *Scott Egginton* and seconded by *Rod Muir*.

Incoming/outgoing correspondence:

Other dive Clubs newsletters; acknowledgment letter from Bob Carr regarding spearfishing competitions at Fish Rock Cave, South West Rocks; brochures from Merimbula Sub Aqua Dive Club regarding Merimbula Divers lodge.

Treasurers Report:

Barbara Sweetman

Expenses for the month of October:	\$408.90 in / \$309.31 out
Balance of Cheque Account:	\$3014.67
Balance of Investment Account:	\$11228.67

Treasurers Report accepted by *Martin Kandilas* and seconded by *Gordon McDonald*.

Social/Dive Organisers report:

Scott Leimroth

Scott Leimroth presented both the social and dive organisers reports in the absence of Committee members.

There will be a wine tasting night in February, \$10/head at Chippendale Cellars. The cost is refundable on purchases.

The Club Xmas Party will be on 8 December 1996 at the Park on the north side of Clovelly Bay. Leo said the Club needs volunteers to get there early to mind the spot.

Upcoming dives include:

23/24Nov. Norah Head weekend diving with C -Breeze Dive; reef/wreck diving; see Scott Leimroth.

29/1Dec. Combined Clubs weekend with St George Scuba Club at Ulladulla; see Scott Leimroth.

Scott said that there will also be a dive prior to the Xmas Party, nearby to Clovelly at approx. 9am.

Members Dive Reports:

Ross Hipwell dived with *Martin Atkins* at Jervis Bay; dived The Banks and Crocodile Head. *John Szewecow* also dived at JB with Martin.

Scott Egginton dived Barrons Hut on the SCANS dive day; had approx 10 metres visibility; saw fish and eels.

Michael McFadyen, Daryl Gibbs, Eddie Labour and Adrienne Hill recently travelled to Madang, PNG to dive; water was 29-30 degrees; dived four wrecks, 2 aeroplanes, night dives and drift dives; all together completed approx. 22 dives; also went on sight seeing tours.

Peter Foster mentioned that he has 2 spots left on the trip he is taking in January on the liveaboard, Victory at Jervis Bay; dates are 13-16 Jan; cost is \$250 for first 2 days and \$110/day thereafter. See Peter if interested.

Bob May did a night dive at Shiprock; dived Barrons Hut on the SCANS dive day; dived the wreck of the Koolooly and had approx. 10-15 metres vis...good for macro photography; dived Long Reef also.

Leo Bergagnin dived 'The Apartments' at Long Reef; Leo led the way during the dive and then lost his compass on the way back; saw large cuttlefish, eels, grouper; had approx. 5m visibility.

Michael McFadyen attempted to dive the Myola on Les Caterson's boat when the depth sounder ran out of paper, they then decided to dive the Koolooly with Bob May; had approx. 15 metres visibility.

Scott Leimroth has just returned from Townsville and diving the wrecks of the Yongala, the Gothenburg and various reefs. He said that the Yongala is in about 30 metres of water and is covered in growth; also dived at Broadhurst Reef and took lots of photo's; 5 Club members went on the trip and it was arranged through The Dive Bell, Townsville.

Gordon McDonald participated in the Helmet Fetish day at Manly; Leo Bergagnin said that Bob May will show a video of the day at the December Club meeting.

Louise Ramson from Scotland talked about diving off the west coast of Scotland at an Archipelago of Islands known as St. Kilda. You can do a 10 day liveaboard trip on a three masted sailing ship to the area; water temperature is about 9 degrees; there are lots of drop offs and 100+ species of nudibranchs.

Bob May mentioned that 6 Club members went on the recent Helmet Fetish day at Manly. Bob said that..."you are not really a diver until you have dived in hard hats".

Photographic Officers / Publicity Officers Report: Paul Howlett

Paul Howlett presented both the Photographic Officers report and his report in the absence of Peter Flockart who is in Vanuatu. Paul said that the AUPY Competition closes on 22 November 1996 and that sponsors are going well.

With regard to publicity, Paul mentioned that he has received some brochures from Becca Saunders regarding a photographic competition in Indonesia. The Club has also received publicity for the AUPY in *Sports Diver Journal*: a Hong Kong dive magazine.

The Club currently has 2 articles in *Dive Log* and will have some in the next edition. Also Paul has some BSAC magazines left over that Club members can feel free to take.

General Business

Adrienne Hill mentioned that she has BSAC forms with her if anyone is interested in joining.

Michael McFadyen asked whether anyone has an 88 Cubic ft tank for sale.

Russell Stoker apologised for failing to acknowledge Samantha Oates photo's used in this month's *Wet Rag*. Scott Leimroth suggested that the Club should buy Rick Latimer's boat which is for sale. Discussion occurred on this issue and Leo Bergagnin moved a motion that Scott Leimroth and Ben Butcher put a proposal to the Club regarding the purchase of a boat. The proposal should be published in the *Wet Rag* in January and the issue debated at February's Club meeting. This was seconded by Paul Howlett.

B R E A K

Leo Bergagnin introduced the guest speaker tonight, Jean Claude Le Pechon from France and Des Walters from Albury who are both involved in the Transfield Airport Metro Venture. Jean Claude gave a presentation on his involvement in the Airport Metro Project, which is a railway link between Sydney Airport and Central Railway Station. He also spoke about his experiences and the technicalities of high altitude diving undertaken at Lake Chungara in Chile, which is 4500m above sea level. This dive was carried out on nitrox using a semi-closed breathing system. Thank you Jean Claude for giving of your time to make this interesting presentation to South Pacific Divers Club. It was very much appreciated.

Raffle prizes and winners:

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| 1st Prize: | Dinner for 2 at Bev's Restaurant, Chippendale |
| Won by: | Mark Dietz |
| 2nd Prize: | T-shirt donated from Aquatic Explorers, Cronulla |
| Won by: | Ross Hipwell |
| 3rd Prize: | Boat dive on Max Western's <i>Sea Tamer II</i> |
| Won by: | Rod Muir |
| 4th Prize: | 2 airfills compliments of Shiprock Dive, Lilli Pilli |
| Won by: | Michael McFadyen |