

SPD MEETING 19TH APRIL, 2004

Apologies: Martin, Ilona, Don, Tom and Amanda.

Incoming Correspondence: Bank statement, URG Bulletin, email from Matt re membership, Cuttlefish Dive weekend 15-27 May, Wet Drill training Course at Qantas pool.

Treasurer Report - some money was banked last month, nothing in this month so far. Books are available for inspection.

Photographic Officer – Peter advises was away in Melbourne last month. Sponsors Dive Pacific put in a full page spread re Diane Armstrong winner Open Comp. Also Dive Pacific Annual has a 2 page spread on the SPD Underwater Comp 2003.

Peter may be absent at next meeting, is going to Palau.

DIVE REPORTS

Phil – Dived in a river in the Brindabella Valley on hooka. Very cold. Found a yabbie.

Peter – Sea Tamer II – Fish Reef – 22 degrees in water, 8-10 mtr viz slight surge. Lots of fish, new nudi, school bastard trumpeter – good dive – slight problem exiting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Wet Drill Training – Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol are holding the wet drill section of the sea survival course on the 24th April at the Qantas Jet Base. Open Course, no certificate issued – just the experience. See Sue. Other courses details will be advised when they are available.

Scuba Expo - 15th-18th July, 2004 at the Sydney Entertainment Centre

With a quorum being present a call for vacant positions within the committee was made from the general membership. Peter was nominated and seconded and voted in unanimously as President. Glen Percy was nominated and seconded and voted in unanimously as Secretary. Linh La was nominated and seconded and voted in unanimously as Treasurer.

Peter Flockart put the motion:

I move a motion that all members that inadvertently failed to renew their membership within the time allowed under the constitution of the club and had been financial members for the entire preceding year and have applied for membership and paid the appropriate joining fee, have their applications accepted and be considered full members again from this moment forward. Further all other membership applications be considered as soon as possible by the incoming Committee, post AGM.

Seconded by, Glen Percy

Motion was voted on and accepted unanimously.

There were no proxies tendered to the meeting.

The meeting was closed. After the break the Annual General Meeting took place whereby Peter Flockart stood in as returning Officer. All positions were declared vacant and the meeting proceeded.

All the following persons were nominated for the following positions and unanimously voted for, therefore the Committee for South Pacific Divers Club Inc for 2004 now consists of

President – Bernie Kraul

Secretary – Susan Tate

Treasurer – Mark Pinna

Photographic Officer – Peter Flockart

Dive Organiser – Peter Flockart

Public Officer – Susan Tate

Newsletter Editor – Duane Langley

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INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We need to work together and get the Club back on track. There is a lot of political talk in the air – we have to remember that we are a club being watched from above by the Dept of Fair Trading. We need to solve a problem when it's small and deal with it. Identify and toe tag. We need to get together diving. We all can do our part to organise a dive somewhere where you want to go.

Very important – if you don't like someone or something about the club, speak out to the committee – don't keep it inside bottling up. Problems are easily solved – you just have to do something – not leave them to fester.

These days many people play computer games, something happens and then press re-load. In real life there is no re-load. Do something wrong to get where you want to go and you have to live with it and deal with it.

The committee guides the club on the ideas of the members and comes back to the members – they only have a limited amount of power.

Emergency decisions – short of time – can't committee make decisions ? but not all of the committee were involved in the decision making.

Definitely need a business plan.

Housekeeping – where is all the club equipment – will be looked into.

We need to change grey areas of the constitution for the betterment of the Club.

IDEA – to keep a list of constitution recommendations as discussed after each newsletter article for future use.

Question re Business Name registration – when is it due? Phil remembers it a couple of years back.

No RAFFLE

Hi all. This article was taken from the on-line edition of New Scientist.
Please use it in the newsletter if required.
Cheers,

Diver's pill could fend off the bends

17:11 26 March 04 Exclusive from New Scientist Print Edition.

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Within a decade, divers will be able to take a pill that allows them to stay under water longer without risking decompression sickness when they get to the surface. That is the prediction of a team that thinks it has stumbled across a totally new way of preventing the bends.

The risk of the bends severely limits how long divers breathing compressed air can stay under water without having to make decompression stops on the way back up. At 30 metres, the safe period is just 20 minutes. Higher pressures at depth force nitrogen from the air in divers' lungs into their blood and other tissues. If they come up too quickly the decrease in pressure causes bubbles to form, just as they do in champagne when the cork is popped. Effects range from skin rashes to death.

A team at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim set out to investigate anecdotal reports that being fitter reduces a diver's chances of getting the bends.

The team's animal studies showed fitness above a basic level made little difference, but that a bout of intense exercise around 20 hours before a simulated dive in a pressure chamber dramatically reduced bubble formation. "It was an accidental discovery," says team member Alf Brubakk.