

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS CLUB MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY THE 19 JANUARY 2009.

Meeting Open 8.04pm

Apologies Received. A2Z, Nipper Maher, Wayne Philips and Tom Byron.

Members Attended Geoff Cook (President) Jason Farlow (Vice Pres) Mark Pinna (Treasurer) Ann Turner, Danni Egginton, Mitchell Cook, Warwick O'Brien Robert Doust, Scott Willan, Leo Bergagnin Nick Farlow, David Chillari Vera Versevic.

Visitors Tricia Henry, Noel Taylor.

Welcome back to 2009 to Members

Applications received for new memberships and renewals

Warwick O'Brien and Family

Leo Bergagnin

Jonathan Dolden

Theo Starr and Lorraine Lazzar.

Treasurers Report. Have spent funds on Club Christmas Party of 2008 however we still have \$8,790.00 in reserve. All bills paid. No accounts known to be outstanding.

Correspondence. Email on speakers from David Strike on Oztek09. Money now falling due for tickets.

General Business.

Geoff Cook addressed the meeting in relation to the Members of the Club having Commercial Affiliations with the Dive Industry. In particular to the question asked by A2Z at the December Meeting and subsequent questions by Scott Egginton as to whether the Club should allow Commercial Operators membership to SPDC as it was a conflict.

The attendance was advised that the current SPDC Constitution was in place and that it held a caveat No Person with Affiliation to a Commercial Dive Operation could hold an executive position within the SPDC, meaning President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. However there was no existing caveat in the constitution that forbade full membership to those persons. Leo Bergagnin agreed that was in place since an incident in the early 80's. Leo stated that we had had trouble with certain dive shop persons in the past and they could no longer hold office. But it was unreasonable and unworkable to deny them access to the club. There were benefits of having Commercial Operators in the Club and there were disadvantages. As long as they never held the opinion that they solely had an obligation to have all the clubs business. Leo indicated that in the past membership was offered free to Max Western of Sea Tamer for his support of the club. Geoff Cook outlined a support policy adopted by the previous committee in 2006 that South Pacific Divers Club would show appreciation to Commercial Diver Operations that had supported the South Pacific Divers Club in the past on a long term basis for the AUPY where they supplied 100's of thousands of dollars worth of prizes and to other CDO's that supplied long term small ongoing prizes for the benefit of the SPDC. Boat Dives, Air Fills Cheap Charter Rates etc. This support included copy space and free ads in the Wet Rag etc. Leo agreed that dives and airfills had been donated for at least 18 years that he was aware. Mitchell Cook indicated that he had been nominated as a CDO as he was supplying lead weights to dive shops and would he be excluded from the club?

Leo said that was taking things too far and half the club and a heap of dive shops had had welding done by him. Not many had paid him though so he should be excluded. Scott Willan indicated that he had bought a kitchen from Andreas because he was in the club. Geoff Cook indicated that he had sold mobile phones to several members and dive shop owners would that exclude him from membership? Geoff Cook reminded that the committee had undertaken to support a CDO in the North, Southern Cross Dive, in the South Shiprock Dive, In the west there was never an agreed supporter. Outside Sydney was United Divers at Wollongong. Seatamer was mentioned but as it sank on the weekend and had been written off was not an immediate issue.

Geoff Cook then advised that a conversation with A2Z about his concerns related to the power of the forum to organise or negotiate deals with CDO's and if they were on the forum it would not be as effective. Geoff indicated that commonsense should be used in the forum. Advising that certain things should not be printed in that domain and that further things should not be printed on the forum that brings either the club or any person into disrepute. At times the forum had been used to assassinate the character of members unchecked. Jason Farlow said that at the moment there was no moderator on the forum and he did not want to be the moderator. There were times when he went on holidays and all hell broke loose. That thread was closed. Ann Turner asked what sections of the forum were important and working and what was not. Discussion took place as to the usefulness of the forum and or whether it should be cancelled or cut back to dive reports and calendar. Jason said it could happen with a flick of a switch although even dive reports could be taken over in the past with character assassinations. Perhaps rules of the Forum needed to be enforced or members adopt a more sensible attitude. Scott Willan indicated that in the past some comments by members were said in Jest but interpreted in a different tone causing blowups. Ann Turner said it was very easy to get a wrong impression as tone is not clear in most forums. Jason agreed. The forum will be proceeding hopefully with a more commonsense approach.

Geoff Cook asked the membership was there anyone present who wanted to put forward a motion to the Club either along the lines of denying access to CDO's to the Club or the Forum which would be then advised to the entire membership and voted upon at the next meeting. Leo said that it would be hard to stop CDOs and that it would not look too good. No motion was mooted from the floor and the matter was closed.

Geoff Cook asked as we were now into 2009 that all dive conveners should pick a date off the calendar and organise a dive at a location that they wanted to dive. Organise Dive, boat dive, shore dive, night dive, commercial dive, weekend away, interstate trip or overseas trip. When asked was there anyone here that could not organise a dive Ann Turner indicated she could not as she was not a diver but socially anything involving food, bbqs or drinking was her thing. Vera indicated that she wanted to dive the seals but wasn't sure that wreckrats would want to come and was concerned that the seals smelt. Geoff indicated that he would assist Vera with her first dive organisation.

Oztek09 21-22 March 2009 tickets are available Gold were \$170 from the club. With the sell 5 get one free we should cover the cost entirely if we have a perfect number and if it wasn't a perfect number the shortfall was a few dollars that would be met by the club. Start sending money now to Geoff Cook.

Scan weekend was the same weekend as Oztek09. Accommodation should be organised at either Paradise de la Chillari or the Caravan Park. Little interest in Scan Weekend at this stage. Chillari said he was going to Oztek09.

WA Order is now almost ready to go.

Geoff Cook outlined that the George Roberts Memorial Photographic Competition was well under way and under control. New trophies had been ordered for both Open and Novice Sections with Club Logo and space for winner of Feb, March, April, Best Slide and Overall winner. Winner gets to keep trophy for 12 months. Leo B asked what happened to the old trophy. Geoff indicated that it was in his office and was full. Hence the need for new trophies. Leo suggested that the old names could have been taken off and new ones added.... Noel Taylor indicated that he had a copy of George Roberts Bio that he would send to Geoff Cook. First close date was midnight on the night of next meeting in Feb.

Visitor Tricia Henry told the story of the sinking of the Sea Tamer as she was onboard after doing a dive at Marly Sponge Garden the boat seemed a little low in the water. Was alright on the way down and before dive. People climbed onboard and lots of water. Anchor line cut and motors run but still too much water. Told to grab gear and get off. Rescue from Waterways and other craft were excellent and no one was hurt. Tricia lost a weight belt and phone was stuffed. Lost gear has been replaced to most people. There were no Chellos playing abide with me as she sank.

Large quantities of the back issues of the Wet Rag have been compiled and Jason Farlow had commenced to scan them. A lot of very early back issues of 1964-1970 wet rags were obtained from Richard Taylor and are history of the club that needs to be preserved. The will be posted somewhere on the net and copied to PDF and disk. Copies will be available when it is done.

Wet Rag Summer edition is under way, No Gear review. Leo indicated that the wetrag was getting out of hand and taking too much time to compile perhaps we should go back to old version but he wasn't doing the posting any more. Dave still requires help stories and photographs and assistance to produce.

Dive Reports.

Mark Pinna dive the Clovelly Pool with the Club on the 10 Jan. Torch still worked after being in storage for years.

Jason Farlow did the Currajong night dive with a broken toe that he hurt cardboard sliding. Both Rob Creaser and Tony Keen trod on his broken toes.. Typical...dive was hit and miss.. Eggers missed the wreck ascended after hitting the bottom on sand in the murk then went down Cookies anchor and had a good dive. No current and an easy swim from boat to boat. The others should have done the same...

Nick Farlow starts his open water dive course tomorrow.

Dave Chillari had a shocker. Forgot his mask on a dive at Balmoral Pool nets. Later borrowed Rob Creasers Mask with super magnified lenses and saw gigantic sea horses and could only focus 10 cms in front of mask. Rob is blind. Don't borrow his mask.

Vera had a good dive at Balmoral but did not see any seahorses.

Scott Willan had done a few dives and had yesterday dived on the Kelloe with Max and Toby. Northerly Current water was 8 to 10 metres. Good dive Parking at Cooks River was full as Penryhn Road Ramp is closed for the foreseeable future. New ramp on Foreshore Dive is planned.

Visitor Tricia Henry dived Shiprock. Saw two nudibranch that she had never seen before. Was a good dive. Looking forward to diving with the SPDC when her eyes are lasered soon.

Noel Taylor dived at Oak Park in October with work colleges. Remembered every rock. Not much had changed and it too was a good dive. But had been riding his new bike lots.

New member Warwick O'Brien dived at Point Perpendicular in JB. Great dive. Very clear. Dived down to sand. First dive back there in 4 years and not much sea life there this time. No sea whips and few fish.

Leo Bergagnin did 7 dives in the Philippines on a "famil" tour. Facilities were good but diving was very average and thought that Australians would not really need to go there as it was better here. One protected area had a rusted 4wd and a fibreglass boat that was just rubbish.

Rob Doust dived the night dives at Clovelly and Currajong. Clovelly he bought the wrong tank that was empty with 50 bar that was a mess. Currajong was good, went down Cookies anchor had a good dive.

Mitchell Cook was happy to be back diving after being stopped by the doctor after being bashed. First dive at Bazzas with Rob Creaser lost rob and returned to the shop. Found each other and continued diving. Dropped tank and stuffed a new reg when it hit the ground. Had done heaps of diving since. 3 dives in one day with Andy Del and mates at Barrens Hutte, but didn't feel right after 7 minutes and ascended. Sand Dive at Osborne Shoals and looking for the engine and boiler of the Koonya over near Merries Reef Boat Harbour was a very good dive of 70 minutes.

Geoff Cook had done 21 dives since last meeting and best was by far the dive on the Myola two weekends ago with Nipper, Big Tony Eggers and A2Z. report is on Forum Dive reports.

Up-Coming Dives

1/2/09 Club Dive at Little Manly

8/2/09 90th anniversary dive of Annie M Miller and BBQ at SXD.

22/2/09 Commercial Double Dive at Wollongong Pinnacles for 8 people.. 3 spaces left.

Proposed trip to South West Rocks..

Proposed Australia Day BBQ at Cookies or Somewhere by the water. T.B.A. Come dressed in Australian Theme or you cannot eat or drink..

Meeting adjourned 10.20pm.