Thank you for attending today’s Annual General Meeting. It’s with pleasure that I finish the year of service as President of the ANUSC with you all today, to welcoming you to the new diving year and of course, to eat the free pizza.

It’s been a big year for the ANUSC. We had 130 members in the last year – that is a 18% increase since VSU was introduced.

During 2009, we retired one boat, and went through a long procurement process to buy another.

Our Club members won not one, but two prestigious Peter McCallough Awards in June 2009.

Chris Bloomfield received his Award for excellence in his field – technical diving, providing technical advice for those wanting to take their diving further and coordinating dive trips.

Walter Steyn, the Club’s very own merman, received his Award for excellence in his field of freediving. In 2009 Wal was the tenth person in the world to swim to a depth of 100 metres on a single breath of air. He also shared this skill with the Club by holding freediving courses for Club members.

The Club organised 26 dive trips through the year with only two cancelled due to bad weather. This includes another successful Lady Musgrave Island trip with 25 divers heading north for warmer waters.

The Club’s social calendar was busy this year, with social drinks held on the first Monday of every month – and I must apologise here for taking this first Monday of March from the drinkers amongst us for this AGM. There were some well-attended talks, a barbeque, and a fun Christmas Party that marked the end of 2009.

The Club’s also produced some stellar merchandise this year! The Calendar for 2010 was a big pre-Christmas hit. T-shirts continue to be popular, both with last year’s design, and with pre-orders this year.

But behind the scenes there are some pretty important things that were set in train during the last year.

- The Club took steps towards getting a new shed by opening discussions with the SRA to lead them towards agreeing to look forward as to what will be sufficient to service a growing Club in coming years.
- Sharyn and I ran a National Parks Authority Clean-up Dive at Bawley Point. This was well attended: we had twice the number of divers as there were pieces of rubbish underwater.
- The Club also made a commitment last year to improve women’s participation in our sport. We received an SRA grant to fund this, and we continued the work built in previous years to increase women’s participation. You may have noticed that the ratio of women to men on dive trips is steadily increasing.
- We are also continuing to improve our student diver ratio. Although the costs of obtaining a dive license are sometimes prohibitive for students, having a young student cohort in the Club is important – we are a university-community based Club, after all. This year, we attempted to continue to improve student participation by having more day trips and by ensuring young
and hot people were selling the Club’s virtues on Market Day. But we need to keep working on this – and more broadly, we need to keep reminding our members that new divers, not just student divers, should be welcomed into the Club. It’s the only way the Club will survive in the long term. We had also discussed updating the website photographs with more recent photographs reflecting our active membership – but this can be something for the incoming Committee to decide upon and work on over 2010.

I’ve been very brief on many of those topics, as these achievements will be brought up again during the reports from the Treasurer, Social officer, Safety officer, and Boat officer.

Despite this very broad overview of the year that’s been, I hope I have conveyed in sufficient terms to you just how big a year it’s been for the Club. None of this would be possible for our Club without the time, dedication and passion that some in our Club exemplify. I would like to thank the following:

- Registered gear officers, for giving up their Thursday nights and dealing with squadrons of eager divers keen to get out of the shed and down to All Bar Nun. I thank you.
- Dive trip organisers, for coordinating logistics and diving for members on 26 weekends during 2009. It’s not an easy task, but I know from the trips that I’ve been on, it’s one that is clearly recognised and appreciated by all of our members.
- Boat towers, for not only hitching our heavy boats to your cars so that we can boat dive at the coast, but for the extra hours you put in – waking up early for the first dive of the day, staying late to take the boats out of the water and doing boat preparations and cleaning before and after all dive trips.
- Boat working bee attendees, thank you for attending the working bees last year and keeping the boats in good working order.

As a not-for-profit sporting club run entirely by our members, the ANUSC relies on people's generosity and commitment to remain functioning. However some members go absolutely above and beyond. Every year the ANUSC awards such a member for their outstanding contribution to the Club. The Secret Easter Bunny Award lets us recognise and thank these people publically.

This year, the Committee had a lot of trouble deciding. Let me say with appreciation that this was a very competitive field in 2010! We eventually were able to narrow the field down to two outstanding contributors to the Club.

The first is a quiet contributor - who, except for hilarious commentary on submissions to the website - would remain otherwise unsung. Kim Sebo: we thank you for your dedication and efficiency on updating and maintaining the website which is absolutely the key tool of information for our members. Thank you for running online competitions for the t-shirts and calendar, and for being so quick in uploading people's photos after dive trips. Without you Kim, our website would look really 1990s.

The second recipient of the 2010 Easter Bunny Award is someone who demonstrates Teutonic efficiency in running dive trips, towing boats, essentially running gear hire,
and managing numerous boat preps. Tom Magill - we thank you for your contributions to the Club in the last year, and years previous; and this year, for stepping up to volunteering as the Lady Musgrave trip coordinator.

Yet there’s one other contribution that I would like to acknowledge here in this forum – that of our Committee. Being relatively new to the Club – I’ve only been a member for three years – I am continually surprised and proud of the dedicated hours that Committee members each serve for the Club. Each of our Committee members has contributed substantial hours to manage the Club’s achievements and issues over the last year.

It’s been a pleasure to serve with such dedicated, passionate people and to have been diving with you all. I’m looking forward to diving with you again in the year ahead.