

ANU SCUBA Club Annual General Meeting

14 March 2006, 6pm

Manning Clarke Theatre 6, Australian National University

Agenda

1 Attendance and apologies

(The quorum for a General Meeting of the Club is 20 members, or 20% of the membership, whichever is less.)

2 Confirmation of last meeting's minutes

Minutes of the last General Meeting have been circulated by email, and are also available on the Club website at www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/committee/secretary/2005/agm2005minutes.pdf. Corrections should be brought forward and approved by the meeting.

3 Reports from the outgoing committee

Reports from outgoing executive and officers are attached. Oral reports will also be presented and committee members will take questions.

4 Election of new committee members for 2006/7

A member will take over the chair of the AGM to allow the release from office of the 2005/6 committee.

Vote of the AGM to relieve the entire committee (or individual members) from office.

The following positions will be filled by the meeting:

- President
- Vice-president (gear officer)
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Traditionally, the following positions may also be filled:

- Boat officer
- Student officer
- Environmental officer
- Social officer

Duty statements for the executive are available on the ANUSC website:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/about/duty.php>.

The procedure for nominations and elections is outlined in the ANUSC constitution:

<http://www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/about/constitution.php>.

5 Gear officer selection

Nomination (self-nomination possible), approval by the 2006/7 committee.

6 Membership fees 2007+

With the advent of user-pays student facilities at ANU, the ANUSC's funding is less certain and likely to be reduced. The extent of any change to our funding is at present unknown. This suggests that while we are likely to need to increase our membership fees, it is not yet possible to know exactly what the right level might be. In setting fees, the Club needs to be aware of its constitutional obligation to promote diving at the ANU, which rules out fees high enough to be off-putting.

Motion (proposed: Paul Thomas): That the committee be empowered to set club membership fees for 2007 to any reasonable amount, consistent with the Club's stated purpose of promoting SCUBA diving at the ANU.

7 Safety Officer

This last year has seen the Club examine its safety procedures on a couple of occasions, and to consider ways to improve the experience and safety of new club divers. For many years the Club used to have a Safety Officer, and this motion proposes this position be reinstated. The envisaged role is not to be responsible for Club safety, but to offer suggestions on improving existing practices which the Committee can evaluate, to undertake the assessment of any club safety related incidents or near-misses, again suggesting possible improvements to existing practices to the Committee and through them the membership, and to be available for all members to consult on safety related issues.

Motion (proposed: Jeremy Weinman): That the Club appoint a Safety Officer

8 Member participation

The 2005 Committee made some recommendations on trips limits last year that have been reported in the 10th May 2005 Committee meeting minutes. However, there was little publicity on this (some of the Committee didn't remember when the subject came up again in early 2006) so it would be good to review this, formalise a clear member limitation policy that includes acceptable reasons for denying a member a particular dive, and publicise these guidelines. The 1 week pre-announcement of any trip limit is to ensure fairness for all members when trip numbers are limited. Not all members can make a decision to commit at the drop of a hat — most of us will need to consult and/or negotiate work schedules and shifts, family commitments, and assignment/project deadlines. Also, it ensures that any planned process of trip selection or limitation is detailed in advance, so that members will not be later surprised.

Motion (proposed: Jeremy Weinman): That clear guidelines on limiting member participation, selection for trip positions, and reasons for denying a financial club member a place on a trip or a dive be formulated by the Committee in consultation with the membership, and that any planned restriction on member participation in any Club trip is distributed by email to all members at least one week before any trip list is opened (thus permitting members enough time to juggle work, family, shifts etc and plan to join a trip).

9 Secret Easter Bunny award

The 2005/6 committee will present this annual award, to a non-committee member who has contributed significantly to the ANUSC.

10 Other business

11 Lady Musgrave Island 2006

David Clarke, this year's coordinator for the LMI trip, will speak about the trip and open the list for deposits. Note that places on this trip are strictly limited.

12 Next meeting

Per the ANUSC Constitution, the next AGM must be in early March 2007.

Report to the General Meeting of the ANU Scuba Diving Club, 14 March 2006

Matthias Regner, President

First of all, welcome to all new and old members to another year with the best Scuba Club in town.

Business from the last General Meeting (AGM 2 March 2005):

Boat deputy officers: The establishment of a pool of members volunteering to assist the boat officer in maintenance and repair issues has been a great success.

Record keeping: There is still no improved record keeping system for the Club in place, other than a web-based design for computer-generated documents.

Trip accounts: The practice of sending final trip sheets to all trip participants, as a means to avoid having to receipt every sum turned over, has been well accepted by coordinators and members alike.

Other issues:

Activities: As usual, the Club's activities have centred on our South Coast trips, which were numerous and increasingly well attended. So well-attended that the trips were starting to burst out of all confinements. But just as our "traditional" pool of coordinators started moaning under the increasing admin load we miraculously found a large number of first-timers volunteering to coordinate more trips. You can see the result on our trip calendar for autumn '06: it's chockers, and that's the way it ought to be!

Tigger: The Club has taken possession of a new boat, and the Tigger has been an instant success. More space, fantastic handling, safer towing due to override breaks... and it led some of us to their first ever sunfish encounter.

Transient financial worries: The unexpected demise of the Daffodil engine and the ensuing need to rapidly acquire a new engine gave the Committee a bit of a fright regarding ongoing liquidity. However, the bridging grant we obtained from the SRA to help us out until the Daff would be sold helped us to ensure we always had enough cash at hand to keep us running.

Safety: A much talked about topic in the committee, and amongst members, was "safety" this year and the desire to be able to continue our club-specific manner of conducting our dive activities, while at the same time ensuring the safety of all members, whether experienced or not. I suggest that the 2006 Committee may want to appoint a sub-committee to address these ongoing questions.

Secret Easter Bunny Award: Well, it wouldn't be secret...

Future issues to start thinking about:

Effects of VSU: You've all heard of it, it is here. While we will be buffered from its effects in 2006, the following year we will bear the full brunt of it. This means that the financial strategies laid out in our 10-year plan are in need for a total rethink. A sub-committee dealing with these challenges would be a good idea. Given the extraordinary commitment of a great number of our members I am very optimistic, though, that the Club will come out on top of this.

There are really too many people to thank. It's been a great year for the Club!!!

Report to the General Meeting of the ANU Scuba Diving Club, 14 March 2006

Michelle Lim, Treasurer

(Revised 13 March 2006.)

Income:

The year 2005 was yet another extraordinary year for the club. Twenty three 'normal' dive trips brought in \$7,932 in income, compared to the \$3,500 last year. The annual trip to Lady Musgrave Island brought in a net income \$4,094, an enviable amount as a result of increased participation numbers.

Income from membership was \$1,145. Gear hire amounted to \$2,140.

The club also received tax-free interest income of \$606 on our term deposit.

On the whole, net income to the club from diving activities surpassed those in previous years.

Expenses:

As anticipated, expenses in 2005 were significantly higher than previous year. This was due to the (planned) replacement of our 4.3m boat, the Daffodil, as well as an (unplanned) replacement of an engine in mid 2005.

Our new 5.3m 90HP boat, the Tigger, cost \$32,470 (half of which was paid by the SRA as agreed to between the club and the SRA in budget planning process of previous years). Fit out costs for the new boat amounted to around \$1,500.

The new 50HP engine for the Daffodil cost \$7000.

We also purchased a six new Faber 1000cf tanks at a cost of \$1,980.

Maintenance costs on club assets (boat and gear) amounted to around \$5000.

Even after allowing for the SRA grant allocation of \$15,000 and an additional \$1,500 to cover GST expenses, the club had a debt to the SRA of \$10,500 at the end of 2005 to cover the abovementioned expenses.

(The Daff was sold in January 2006 for \$8000, significantly more than the (conservative) resale value of \$5000 that was budgeted).

Financial status:

As at 31 December 2005, the club is a good financial position with a **net equity position of \$9,734**. This is net of our debt to the SRA and current term deposit of \$11,390.

Going forward

This year will be an important year for the club to consolidate its finances following the heavy draw on its coffers last year. With changes to SRA funding structures taking effect in 2007, consolidation and review of the club's medium to long-term plans and budget imperatives is timely.

Report to the General Meeting of the ANU Scuba Diving Club, 14 March 2006

Paul Thomas, Secretary (Publicity Officer)

Membership:

At the end of the 2005/06 membership year, the club had about 150 members. This is on a par with 2004/5 but substantially more than in previous years:

2001/2	≈100 members
2002/3	≈120
2003/4	≈120
2004/5	≈140
2005/6	≈150

Members are split about 60/40 male/female and 60/40 student/non-student.

Safety:

Safety before, during, and after dives has been a major concern of the committee this year. While we have a good record, especially considering the amount of diving we do and the number of years the club has been around, the 2005/6 committee decided on a number of steps to further encourage safe practices. Many of these have already been implemented, and at the time of writing several are pending. New measures, or initiatives resurrected from the vaults, include:

- further publicity for our existing safety guidelines;
- giving new members some info about how the club works;
- reminder labels for the boats;
- a new series on the web where we report incidents and near-misses,;
- a form on the web for (optionally anonymous) reporting of incidents and near-misses;
- continuing courses, through training agencies (eg SSI stress and rescue) or the club (eg our O2 training);
- new “assumption of risk” documents, to encourage people to think about their own and others' safety;
- more details in the trip listing about what people can expect;
- a commitment to run beginner-friendly trips more often;
- a policy (as yet unofficial) that boats should either go out together, or people should dive in shifts, as the default position;
- making it easier for coordinators to know whether someone is new to the club.

Several members have been very active in helping the committee work through safety issues; I'd like to thank Charlie Adamson, Jeremy Weinman, and Ron Henry in particular.

Environment:

Environmental issues this year have included:

- The NSW SCUBA tax, supposedly aimed at protection of Grey Nurse Sharks. The club has made several submissions on this issue;
- A new Plan of Management for Mystery Bay, including the campground. The club has

made a submission on the draft Plan;

- A new “multiple use” marine park at Port Stephens. Again, the club has made a submission;
- Another new park at Batemans Bay;
- NSW legislation on boating and diving around seals;
- The draft National Seals Strategy, aimed at minimising harm to either party in seal/human interactions;
- Clean Up Australia Day, where we joined the University of Wollongong club in cleaning under Windang Bridge (coordinated by Jen Hine and Thomas Magill).

All the Club's submissions can be found on our web site.

Administrivia:

The last few years of dutiful recordkeeping and careful processes meant the Club once again sailed through the annual SRA audit.

The Club web site, which has long supplanted the printed newsletter, is getting approximately daily updates (with help from Peter Christen). The web site remains the place to go to find out what's going on with your Club, including of course information on dive trips but also club administration, submissions and communications, committee meetings, ...