Minutes
ANUSC Committee Meeting
15 November 2006, Arwen’s place

The meeting opened at 1845ish.

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Arwen Mow-Lowry (chair), Alison Shield, Anita de Fredrick, Jeremy Weinman, Sabrina Coventry

Apologies: James Parks, Paul Thomas, Mark Leonard

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted.

3. Matters arising

• A new gear issue system has been implemented by ML but some revisions need to be made in light of gear officer comments

• Trip spreadsheets have been drafted to encourage reports on gear, boats, and any safety concerns. Some basic info for trip organizers is also being included. **AS to complete and post on web.

• First aid training is back on track now. Initiated contact with Neal White who is Parasol certified. He will run senior first and with oxygen for a minimum of eight people and max of approximately 16 (this may be more flexible for just O2). We have suggested weekend of 9-10th Dec and cost will be $150 for senior first aid and oxygen and $80 just for oxygen. Subsidy from SRA is a total of $640. Suggest we subsidize up to 10 people for senior first aid at $70 each and $30 for up to 6 people for oxygen component only. If we have too many interested members we will select participants based on their contributions to the club.

We have also heard informally that we may need to spend our grant monies by the end of November – this impacts on our first aid course and needs to be clarified (AS understands that last year the grant contributions were finalized at audit).

**AS will coordinate the course(s) and contact Andrew Yapp regarding booking a room

• A letter has sent to the SRA regarding our accumulated "surplus". We are currently waiting for a formal reply from the SRA Council but informally understand that our accumulated funds to date are being honored. We will need to renegotiate in light of the VSU alterations.

• SRA also approached about separate bank account for LMI trip with signatory rights to trip coordinator. We are currently waiting for a reply from the SRA.

• Large BCDs has arrived - small still on order.

• Submarine cables submission has been submitted by James.

• Boat working bee undertaken by select individuals. Most repairs are under control (e.g. Tigger hydraulics) with a few things ongoing (e.g. hull welding).

Still pending:
- Stickers for the boats:
- New rules for private hire of the boats still need to be drafted.
- North Oval fence
- Tank handles
- LMI 2007 coordinator - not resolved but Dave Clarke has been corresponding with Rob Benn

4. Reports

- President (Arwen): Last meeting we discussed finances in light of VSU with Ray Vran. He has modeled various financial scenarios and assured us that if diving is maintained at the current levels then we are in very good financial shape to absorb VSU changes. We can afford to put money back into training and also strategies to make diving affordable for students. At this stage we are required by the SRA to charge $30 membership fee for ANU students and $50 for non ANU students. The SRA membership fee (currently $120) will be reduced to $90 + GST for non ANU students and free for ANU students. Non ANU students and certain categories of ANU staff previously precluded from membership will be able to join the SRA as Associate Members for $90 + GST.

We are suggesting that students are given a diving incentive punch card 'worth' three free dives. We need to consider the logistics for implementing this and whether we want to include non ANU student for student incentives (we will not be able to include them as students for purposes of SRA grants). Other incentives could include cash back for gear hire (e.g. wetsuits etc) from scuba stores. We could also consider having a few subsidized trips throughout the year for all members - for example $5 boat dives for New and Rusties would be a good candidate.

We may also like to consider including items such as a new compressor and airbank for the shed in our 10 year budget.

Recommendation that at this stage we accept the new fee structure to begin from 1 Jan 2007 with student punch card but leave other fees as status quo; this will allow us to test the waters next year and room to alter our fee structures as necessary.

** AS and AML to coordinate informing members of changes and to liaise with Ray and the SRA regarding new 10 year plan.

- Treasurer (Alison): Our current financial position is good with approximately $11,500 in the bank (excluding our term deposit). Estimates that LMI profit is approximately $3000 which will be finalized when the last food reimbursements and Steve's hire bill come in.

- Secretary (Alison for Paul): two items of correspondence received being a DOUTS newsletter and information regarding submarine cable exclusion zones in WA.

** SC to draft submarine cable submission based on recent submission as JP too busy. She will act as Environmental Officer until February.

- Social (Anita): Christmas party on 3rd December at Carp Gutters. Club to provide basic meat, bread and soft drinks.

** AdF to think about social budget for 2007

- Safety (Jeremy): recently regulator gauges 'blew' off underwater. This is very unusual and steps are being taken to figure out how to monitor and avoid in the
future. JW has been liaising with Cyltest and users to determine history of the regulators. A long discussion followed regarding who should be 'allowed' to maintain gear - in the end it was agreed that we need a better system for keeping track of gear servicing and particularly between service maintenance. Suggestion was made that the gear officer could look at implementation such a system. JW also commented on a coroners report regarding the accidental drowning of a diver that forwarded to us today by Charles Adamson. There may be implications to our waiver. This will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting to give committee members time to read through the report.

5. Grey Nurse proposal

Charles Adamson submitted a proposal for a study to be undertaken by the club over a ten year period to monitor Grey Nurse populations. In principle the committee agreed that this was a worthy project for the club to commit to. However there were some issues of logistics that need to be ironed out to ensure that any study that is undertaken is valid and feasible. It was recommended that Charles be allowed to run the project with the suggestions that he contact some people who are currently involved in marine environment research such as ReefWatch (AS has a contact here) and that he trial the survey internally before engaging external organizations in additional surveys.

6. Reg mishap and gear servicing records (see safety report)

7. Other business

- SCAN trip: we do not have a coordinator despite gentle enquiries therefore at this stage it needs to be removed from the calendar
- Boat Washing: the new ACT water regulations only allow washing on boats once per month. We need to determine whether we fall under different regulations as part of the university or consider alternative strategies such as using a car wash. Also the motors really should be flushed within 24 hours. Currently the boats and some of the gear not being adequately cleaned. Suggested that Mark and Bill coordinate a ‘washing bee’! JW also suggested that we invest in a low volume high pressure hose fitting.
- Other purchases to consider include a tank pressure gauge and oxygen equipment for both boats (may be some concerns with how quickly it degrades if stored on the boat).

The meeting closed at 2130.