Safety Advisor Report

• The Club hasn’t had a Safety Officer/Advisor in over 10-20 years so we needed to ‘find our way’ with how it should work. General principal has been that I’m not telling people what to do, but recommending courses of action to the committee. i.e. not the scuba police.

• Only two reported incidents in the last club year
  o One involved the disintegration of the end of a high pressure hose during a dive (nobody injured)
    ▪ All gear checked
    ▪ No precursor signs on any other hoses
    ▪ Need to suggest that hoses are treated carefully – e.g. don’t float gear behind you and pull by the hoses.
    ▪ Committee agreed that a better way to record maintenance is needed: this is currently being implemented.
  o Second involved incorrect navigation during poor conditions with some members ending up in the surf zone on rocks and causing some injuries.
    ▪ Still being investigated
    ▪ Important for all concerned to recognize that the club encourages reporting of all and any incidents by all concerned, and there is an online form that can be used to keep the person reporting anonymous.

• Much has been preventative (which is better than having incidents)
  o Ron Henry is thanked for giving a non-certification workshop in O₂ administration and the use of our O₂ kit prior to LMI.
  o Assisted to arrange certification courses in first aid and O₂ administration.
  o Move to make reporting of any incidents and even incident free dive trips standard so that we can follow trends and not rely on gossip or word of mouth – this reporting has now incorporated onto trip sheets.
  o Following recommendations on a diving fatality by a NSW coroner, we agreed that while the OH&S laws don’t apply to us, there are worthwhile things we can learn. In particular, as a club we should
    ▪ to be more careful about seeing buddies safely back to the surface;
    ▪ stress the importance of discussing individual limitations such as health or air consumption.
  Suggested changes to the Informed Consent waiver, to emphasize that it is important that anything that could affect the safety of a diver or their buddy needs to be made clear to all parties, have been incorporated.
  o Good suggestion from the membership that it will be good to have Emergency Management Plans for all of our regular sites. – in progress.

• For the future, it is important that we continue to foster a culture of awareness and discussing/reporting of safety issues. Equally, it is important that all members recognize their personal limits and not push them, and also that it is ultimately their responsibility to decide to proceed or not with a dive.

Jeremy Weinman

13th March 2007