President's report

Arwen Mow-Lowry

Welcome to another year with the greatest dive club!

First of all I would like to thank the outgoing committee. They have done a lot of work and been absolutely fantastic! Without them we wouldn't be in as good a position as we are now! Also, apologies for not being here to deliver the report myself, but the Galapagos is awesome!

As most of you are aware there is a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on to keep a club like this one running. And all of you have been instrumental in keeping us going. There are so many people that have contributed significantly to the club. There are those who turn up to help out at working bees, those who help out with new members, those who run gear issue, those who do the tasks back in Canberra to keep the boats operational. There are people who co-ordinate trips and we mustn’t forget our boat towers. The boat towers spend a lot of time ensuring that we can go diving down the coast. They not only tow the boats to and from the coast, but also often too and from the boat ramp – all in all a big job! And I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed in the last year. You are a wonderful group of people and you make being a part of this club a pleasure.

The diving over the last year has been fantastic. We have had a huge number of trips on the calendar and many people attending these trips. Since our AGM last year there have been a record 32 dive trips, more than one trip every 2 weeks. So thank you again to everyone who co-ordinated a trip!

Business from the Last AGM (14 March 2006):

Membership Fees: Following the introduction of VSU the ANU Sports and Recreation Association has had to alter the way that funding is allocated, and have implemented minimum membership fees for all clubs associated with the SRA. As a result of this club membership fees have had to be increased. It is now $30 for ANU students to join the club and $50 for all other ANU SRA members. But as an incentive for ANU students they receive 3 free boat dives when they join up!

Safety: The introduction of a ‘Safety Officer’ and the Safety Sausage section of the website have helped to address any safety issues in the club. But I would like to encourage people to use the ‘report an incident’ section on the web site. It is really important that we know about any incidents or near misses that happen on dive trips. It allows us, as a committee and a club, to address any issues and hopefully prevent accidents from happening. Don’t forget that this is a confidential reporting system.

Other Things:

The Secret Easter Bunny Award: There are so many wonderful people contributing to the club that it makes this decision a very difficult one, particularly this year! Congratulations......

Student Involvement: Student participation in the club is an ongoing issue and while we have tried a few things this year to try to get more students involved this is something that needs to be further addressed. The activity that we trialled this year (and it seemed fairly successful) was the
day trip. Generally speaking there were more student members than non-student members on the day trips and people liked the mix of social and diving activity.
Treasurer's report

Alison Shield

For 2006 we had: 82 Student Members and 68 Full Members. 70% of our members participated in at least one trip. You come on about 2 trips per year and spend about $120 per year on diving (unless you go to Musgrave). With a SUPER BUMPER year of 34 scheduled trips only two were cancelled due to bad weather. Our trips have an average of 14 divers who dive 2.4 times each per trip – a staggering 1054 dives this year! Not bad for 100 odd active divers and well in line with the bumper year had in 2005.

Thanks to you all for a healthy dive trip income of $7700 (plus $3700 for Musgrave). Income from memberships was also excellent at $1463 although gear hire ($1400) was down compared to last year ($2140). [2006 budget results are attached]

As a consequence of almost continuous diving we have sustained large expenses for boat maintenance ($3545) and gear servicing ($3525). Part of the enormous gear service bill was due to us not being invoiced in 2005 however $2347 for 2006 servicing was greater than anticipated. Regardless we were able to absorb the necessary replacement of the gears on Puff with a more user friendly hydraulic system and to purchase two additional BCDs. We also trained 9 members in Senior First Aid and 6 members in Advanced Resuscitation (Oxygen Administration).

As of 31/12/2006 we were in a net equity position of $21447.69. This is well ahead of our 10 year plan which projected reserves of $10545.

BUT we need to tread cautiously in 2007. With the introduction of Voluntary Student Fees (VSU) the SRA funding base has dramatically changed. In the past we have requested an averaged grant of $7000p.a. with 50% co-contribution. This year it is anticipated that funding will be at least one third less and we will need to contribute 60% rather than 50%. We will also be liable for a 2/3 share of marine insurance and boat/trailer registrations (nearly $3000) that has previously been paid in full by the SRA. As a consequence we have been redrafting our ten year plan (thanks Ray and Kim) and modelling for worst case scenarios – so far all the signs are good…but proceed with caution because if our diving activity dramatically decreases then our major income source also dramatically decreases.

You have already noticed the SRA enforced increase in membership fees to $30 for ANU students and $50 for everyone else. We anticipate that we will have fewer members – particularly student members - for 2007 but hope to have around 100 members who are all active! We have tried to cushion the blow by offering students 3 free dives when they join the club, $5 dives to all divers for the New and Rusties Trip and we will continue in our tradition of several subsidized social events throughout the year.
At this stage we should be able to leave gear hire, turn-up fees and boat ride fees the same for 2007 but keep in mind that based on last years figures:

● We need an average of 15 divers per trip to paying the $5 turn up fee to cover towing expenses
● Per dive approximately $3 goes to petrol, $4 boat and trailer maintenance, $3 marine insurance and registration
● Currently the cost of gear hire does not cover gear servicing
● And we still need to make a profit each year to go towards replacement of boats and dive gear.
Secretary's report

Paul Thomas

Memberships:

Last year we had 151 members, 54% of whom were ANU students. This compares with 139 members in 2005, 140 in 2004, and 116 in 2003 to suggest a slow but steady climb in numbers. For the last couple of years the active membership, those people who actually turn up on a dive, has been steady at 70%.

For 2007 we’ve been forced to increase our membership prices to the new SRA minimum of $30 for ANU students and $50 for everyone else. This is a steep rise for students ($5 to $30) and a moderate rise for non-students ($135 to $149, including compulsory SRA membership), so the committee is expecting to see a corresponding decrease in numbers. The ANUSC is still fantastic value for a keen diver, however, so our feeling is that the loss is likely to be from many of the members, especially students, who would previously sign up on a whim and never come down to the coast. We have planned for 100 members this year, and at the time of writing (early March) we already have 66 members on the books.

As an incentive to join, and to come along on a trip, student members in 2007 are being sent three coupons, each good for one free boat dive.

SCAN:

The ANUSC is a member of SCAN, the SCUBA Clubs Association of NSW, which is the advocacy group for recreational (non-commercial) SCUBA divers in NSW and the ACT. This has been invaluable: as well as giving us a voice on bodies such as Waterways and the ACMA's submarine cables committees, and helping us in our efforts on issues such as Grey Nurse Sharks, the proposed NSW SCUBA levy, and the two new marine parks in NSW, SCAN lets us keep in touch with other clubs to find out what's coming up, what's been going on, and what things we need to pay attention to in our own club. I would urge the incoming committee to keep up membership of SCAN and to get even more involved.


Clubs day and try dives:

Once again the club has run a successful stall during ANU o-week, which saw us sign up a number of new members (as well as distribute a vast number of flyers for the club and for SCUBA store courses). The Pufferfish, and a number of excellent photos, provided a backdrop for our stall and a batch of enthusiastic volunteers donated their time to help out. Thanks to Corinna for organising the stall this year; thanks also to Nadine and Sabrina for their efforts and to all who took a turn sitting in the sun.

Our other (semi-)regular activity for new students is the try dive at Civic pool, which ran in early March. Although numbers were down on previous years, those that did come along had a chance to paddle around underwater at the deep end of Civic pool and appeared to have a ball doing somersaults. Thanks are due to Ron for making the arrangements, Steve for providing most of the gear, and Jeremy, Nadine, and Corinna for donating their time to get the whole thing running smoothly on the night. Again, there are many more details online at http://www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/committee/secretary/2006/try-dives.php and http://www.anu.edu.au/clubs/scuba/committee/secretary/2006/clubs-day.php.
Administrivia:

As well as announcements over the anusc-members email list, a great deal of information about the club is available at our website, including the obvious things (details of upcoming trips, committee contact details) and the less obvious (what a purple wire means in an outboard, who to call to book campgrounds). For those who are keenly interested in what's going on, or who have insomnia, it's also got archives which cover financial information, minutes of committee meetings, environmental issues, and more: click on “info” at the top of any page and follow the links.

I'll be standing down as secretary this year; thanks to everyone on the past few committees for their work, and to the very many people who've helped out by tying up loose ends or, even better, doing things before we'd even realised they needed doing.