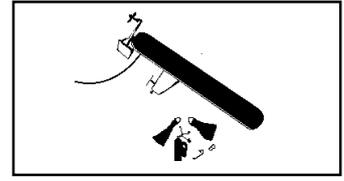


The ANU SCUBA Diving Club Newsletter

September 1998



Hello my great laughing hyenas! Read on to find out what happened at LMI, when and where the club will dive and all about 'BIG BIRD'. Yes ... no one knows it but BIG BIRD will shortly hatch. People will come up with all sorts of stupid names like buttercup and pukey pansy but in the end Big Bird will be known as Big Bird by all coastal patrols. Imagine ... 'Big Bird, Big Bird, Big Bird this is Kiola coastal patrol do you read me? over'.

diving it back down the coast to Canberra. So if you're interested then check out the dive calendar where you will find the rumour has congealed.

These high quality robust rubbers are darned expensive and BIG BIRD will cost about \$25,000 on the water. Remember that minor detail next time you pay your \$10 to go for a dive!

Big Bird!

"Gee Bert! Do you tink that this Cherokee is going to make it? Whadooya tink Bert?" "Stop Bugging me Ernie can't you see I'm diving? This Cherokee has to last another 4 years at least! So shut up and breath through ye regulator."

Sometime before the end of the year the club is going to buy a big new bright yellow rubber! The rubber (BIG BIRD) we are hoping (ie. going) to get is a ribbed yellow NAIAD 5.3 metre rigid hulled inflatable that will give you the ride of your life! It is basically a bigger version of the Dafodil that some of you may already have found to be such a pleasurable experience. The difference between BIG BIRD and the Daf is that BIG BIRD makes the Daf feel like sandpaper. We've been saving hard for this little baby and now, with a 50% contribution from the SU, we are going to get it!

We know BIG BIRD is awesome because we watch Sesame street... Wow, what a great committee you've got: they are so keen to learn how to dot the I's and cross the T's! BIG BIRD will be kitted out almost identically to the Yellow Fin except that we will have a narrower console, no windscreen and a 90HP motor that makes Steve puff up with the words 'No, No... that's not going to work ...' - but O yes it will! For those of you who are worried about towing weights ... don't be, sit back and relax ... place your trust in us and invest all your savings in the Russian stock market. We weighed the Daf and it came in at just over 600Kg. The new boat will not be significantly heavier and the Russian rubble will shortly be worth more than the US dollar. At the moment we intend to get a 90HP Yamaha two stroke engine on Big Bird. We are opting for a bigger engine than on the yellow fin because we believe it will be necessary for quick acceleration, halting inflation and control required in the huge swells we encounter on the South Coast.

I also hear rumours that a contingent will be heading up to Brisbane to collect the boat and there is a vague plan of

The Great Presidential Spiel :

Mr Jase, Seaman Staines, Jason Haines

The Club has kept itself very busy with great dive trips and a sensational Musgrave. It's currently the season for Cross Country Skiing (see you up there!) but spring, and our Seal Colony trip is not far away.

Gear

The committee has noted that many of the problems with the Club SCUBA gear have been due to inadequate washing of the gear. It is up to gear borrowers to ensure that gear is properly washed before being returned! If you don't know the proper way to wash your gear, please ask!

To encourage members to better care for the gear, the committee has decided to raise the deposit charge from \$10 to \$30. This fee is more in line with what other Sports Union clubs are charging and reflects the value of the gear. Be prepared to loose this deposit if you don't return your gear on time and properly cleaned!

Also, our Gear Officer, Marcus Schortemeyer has left Canberra to work in Perth. Marcus will be greatly missed for his contributions to the Club. Martin Tyson has kindly agreed to take over from Marcus and has been doing an excellent job.

Student Activities Officer

In May, our Student Activities Officer, Matt Mayoh, resigned. The committee offered the position to Rowan McMurray who has now agreed to fill this role. Rowan intends to organise weekday trips during student vacation periods for those people who can't make the weekend trips. If this interests you, get in touch with Rowan

Rowan McMurray
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Trips

The committee has examined the issue of overloaded trips. Generally the number of people going on a weekend trip is a manageable number, but occasionally we have monster trips such as this year's Canberra Day Long Weekend at Jervis Bay. These trips tend to stretch the Club resources past their limits and end up being excessively stressful for everyone involved. In particular, Club SCUBA gear tends to get misplaced after repeated gear shuffling. To partially avoid such problems, future trips will limit the amount of gear sharing to two people. Thus a maximum of 20 people needing gear will be allowed on a Club trip on a first come first served basis. Given the average number of participants on a Club trip, we don't anticipate having to enforce this rule too often.

The new boat

The Sports Union has agreed to pay up to 50% of the capital costs for a new boat purchase. The Club has been in touch with NAIAD about getting a larger version of the Daffodil. Club members Norm Schram, Steve Harding and Colin Jenkins purchased a similar boat, the Yellowfin, and those that were up at Musgrave this year can attest that it is indeed a fine vessel! The Club will be making minor modifications to the Yellowfin design and placing the order shortly.

The Musgraviad: An epic poem.

Prose translation of the original poem in Greek by

Matt Rockman.

Book I:

A phalanx of tourists arrive descending from the Lady M. They approach our encampment. They could tell at once we were foreigners to Queensland, on account of our having basic literacy skills, although they mistook Marty for a countryman, because he's from Tasmania.

Ultimately, they inferred from our pale skin that we hail from Canberra. They approached our leader and spoke thus: "Goodday fair Canberrans! What stroke of fortune has brought your haggard crew to this forsaken Musgravia?" To which our leader responded "Far out!". Thus spoke Bill, master of maggots. He was called to other matters and directed the tourists to me. "If you could talk to Matt" he said, "that would be excellent". And so as the tourists gathered close, I began to recount the twists and turns of fate that had brought us to these shores.

Book II:

Thus did I begin:

"It has been some time since we bid farewell to Canberra, to the mist bound peak of Mt Ainslie, to fair Woden Valley and the Belconnen Mall. We marched north, to join the great state-of-origin war which was tied 1 all. We suffered severe setbacks in Goondiwindi but with aid from our loyal NRMA allies, we persevered in the battle of Condamine. The war having ended, we boarded a ship to return to Canberra, and our beloved in Fyshwick.

With light from the goddess Diana to guide us, our vessel plowed through the wine-dark seas. Even before we had lost sight of land I rushed to the stern to offer libations to Poseidon, "guide us safely home" I prayed to Poseidon, as I gave him the offerings I had acquired earlier at the Gladstone Yacht Club. In fact, I kept vigil at the stern all night, joined by my pious compatriots, Glen, Glen whose tent is like unto the walls of Mycenae, and Bill, Bill who is sometimes far out.

Soon rosy-fingered dawn cast her glow upon the sky, and Apollo ascended in his fiery chariot. Dolphins leapt across the bow. In gratitude for safe passage I rushed to the stern to thank Poseidon, but I had exhausted my supply of offerings from Gladstone. I could only hope that the sea god would appreciate bile.

Book III :

Alas, the god was displeased. He soon materialised upon our ship and made us feel his wrath: "Why are you sleeping and drinking coffee" he cried, casting us into the frothing sea. And this is how our crew came to be on Musgravia, I told the tourists; cast into the sea with only our wits to save us; our wits, and two boats, drums of petrol, water, and gas, and two ice boxes and some compressors, 20-some tents and sleeping bags, and scuba gear, a few tons of food, and a shit load of alcohol; but mostly our wits.

Book IV :

No sooner had we found safe haven on Musgravia did Poseidon let loose with more punishment. The skies opened, and Poseidon, in concert with Apollo and Zephyr, blew our tents about and poured upon us his angry rain. For 40 days and 49 nights it rained and when at last the rain ceased, no land was in sight in my tent. I was adrift on my thermarest. To see if land was near, I thought to release a bird. I let loose a noddy tern, but no sooner had it flown the tent than it fell to the ground dead. I repeated this exercise with about 20,000 noddies, each time with the same result. Then I released some buff-banded land rails, mostly hoping they would drown, but instead they found land on which to buff their bands, and so I was saved.

Book V :

But still the gods were angry. They sent a plague of silvereyes to wreck the starter motor on our boat and also to shit on our dishes. Janet, she of the elusive wetsuit, had in particular incurred the god's anger. For the gods sent a demon to plague her. Rising from the seafoam like Aphrodite, but much smaller, this creature was known as Josie. Like a curse from the Gods Josie followed Janet everywhere, her savage cries of "play with me" and "why? why? why?" echoed across the island.

Book VI :

A few of us thought to escape the cursed island in one of the boats, even asking Poseidon's fury did we so long to see the familiar beauty of Tuggeranong and Civic. Setting out in the cherokee, we had not gone far when we sensed a presence beneath the boat. Through the hoary depths we could see the shape of a great sea monster, a leviathan. As the whale breached before our boat it turned to us and asked, "Hey, where's Farmer". When we answered that he was not

with us, the whale said "piss off then". We were so astonished we could only mutter to ourselves "insane, insane". But the whale was angry - it capsized the boat and killed the crew, using its tongue to crush them against its baleen plates. I alone survived.

Book VII :

We still had no idea how accursed was the island. After some time, we ran out of limes for the G and Ts. Desperate, we turned to the native flora to save us. Only later did we realise that the gods had placed a spell on the Pandanus. The spell affected all the single people. Early symptoms included massage, which is a cheap form of foreplay. Within days, there were no single people left.

Book VIII :

Oh how we longed to see Gunghalin and fair Yarralumla. Our fortune changed when we received a visit from a goddess, Ranger Jos, she of the government issue shorts. "To see your homeland" she said "you must first go to the underworld. Oh, and no collecting in zone B".

Book IX :

I knew the trip to the underworld would be difficult and dangerous, so I sought advice from experts. I asked Dave, sharpener of knives, and Sarah, the Dusky Nembrotha. "Aye" said Dave, "the underworld is a terrible place. Blood oozes from every orifice, even your nipples. You crash and bleed. They can run you through a strainer." Sarah added, "Beware the black vomit".

As I departed for the portal to the underworld, which was known as the Clivus, I heard this enigmatic advice from Ray "Don't drop my torch in".

Then there are a lot of sections about the underworld which I haven't translated from the Greek, so I'll skip to book 24, which is the last.

Book XXIV :

No sooner had the tourists left than we were visited by another goddess, Danielle, Danielle who injects vodka into oranges. "Far out" said Bill. We implored Danielle to help us leave the island. She agreed to ameliorate Poseidon's anger. As we gathered around she began to intone, "Hear us lord Poseidon! You are fabulous! Bloody divine! Just wonderful! Fabulous! Bloody divine!" And so Poseidon was appeased and we sailed home on a sea of glass. Praise Zeus, we lived to see Downer and Lyneham once again.

FIN

The Diving Calendar

If you want to go on a dive please get in touch with the trip organiser around one week beforehand.

Montague Island Seal Dive September 26th – 27th

It's seal time again! This is our traditional post-winter dive and we're off to visit the hundreds of seals that come to play on Montague Island.

Accommodation will be at Mystery Bay "primitive" campsite

Siggi Schmid

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Wollongong – Bombo October 30th – November 1st

At this time of the year, the waters are warmer in the north. Port Hacking is a national park on the southern edge of Sydney, and so should be just about perfect right now.

Sarah Whitfield

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Annual General Meeting The Student Union Bridge 7pm Thursday November 12th

Yes, it's time for our annual general meeting. After hearing reports from the outgoing committee it will be time to elect a new committee for 1998.

Jason Haines

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New Boat Pickup Around November 21st - 22nd (or later)

Yes! ... be the first to fly on Big Bird! A group will be making it's way up to Brisbane to pick up Big Bird. On the way back Big Bird will be dipped at all sorts of great dive locations on the NSW north coast to remove any unwanted flees acquired at the factory. The dive up there should be awesome and Big Bird should be revving up so come along and have a ball!

Jerry Keating

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Beldiver's Treasure Hunt Bawley Point and Ulladulla Saturday November 21st - 22nd

Every year our sister Club, the Beldiver's hold a Treasure Hunt weekend at Bawley Point. This is a great event and a great chance to meet some other Canberra divers.

The Treasure Hunt involves snuffling around Bawley Point to collect disks that are later used as raffle tickets during the afternoon barbecue. In addition to winning lots of great prizes, the Club usually does well in the Great Inflatable Boat Race.

Eric Wenger

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Jervis Bay December 5th - 6th

Jervis Bay is a great pre-Christmas dive. We will be camping at Bristol Point, which will give us great access to some of the dive sites on the south side of the bay.

Note that Rowan intends to stay on for December 7-8 assuming there are suitably experienced people to drive the boats and a sufficient number of divers. If this interests you, get in touch with Rowan!

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Equipment Rules – Tanks/Vests/Regulators

The ANU SCUBA Diving Club has several sets of SCUBA equipment, purchased and maintained with a combination of Sports Union grants and Club generated funds. This equipment, stored in the relocated ANUSC gear store in the green double garage on North Oval, is subject to constant and demanding use so the following rules have been formulated in the interests of all Club members, of the Sports Union, and of the issuing and maintenance officers.

- 1) One set of gear is provided only to qualified divers who are **current** members of **both** the ANU SCUBA Diving Club and the Sports Union. Persons not known to the issuing officer may be asked to show their Sports Union/Student card and may be checked against the list of current members. You can not borrow a 2nd set for a non-member,
- 2) Gear is available free of charge on Club dives - subject to a \$10 deposit, refundable when the equipment is returned **the next week**, complete and not abused, clean and with the **tanks full**. Borrowers are not guaranteed exclusive use and may be required to share with other Club members on a dive.
- 3) When not required for Club purposes, equipment may be hired for private use at a fee of \$20 per set, plus the usual deposit. *Equipment is for the support of diving as a Club, and is not available for private use when a Club outing is scheduled, regardless of however many sets appear to be spare.* The Club does not accept advance bookings for the use of equipment.
- 4) Equipment may be borrowed and returned around 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, via the rostered issuing officer, **who attends only on request**. In order to allow everybody fair access, gear **must** be returned by the Thursday following the week of issue. **If you don't ring a gear officer, or a Club official if you can't contact one, to arrange return of your gear you must expect to lose your deposit.**
- 5) The member signing for gear remains fully responsible for it until it is signed back in. Negligent loss or damage will be treated in accordance with current policy of the Club and the Sports Union, which retains ownership of all Club equipment. Borrowers are expected to keep track of all gear issued to them, particularly on dives where it is shared.
- 6) **To avoid damage, please remove jacket vests from tanks before transport.**
- 7) After use wash ALL gear in fresh water, rinse out vests internally, and return them half-inflated. Hose down your tanks and tank boot. **Ensure that the dust cap is tightly fitted to the reg before soaking. Water in the reg will damage it and can result in total failure of your reg or gauges. Apart from the danger to you or other users, this costs us lots of money to replace.**
- 8) **NEVER EVER leave tanks or hoses or vests in your car in the hot sun.**
- 9) **In the interests of safety and to avoid inadvertent re-issue, all faulty gear must be labelled as such on return, AND reported personally to the gear maintenance officer by the borrower.**

Gear Maintenance Officer Martin Tyson

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6281-8224

(H)
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Gear Issue and Return

(Thursdays only unless you arrange otherwise)

*** Remember, people will only attend if you contact them beforehand ***

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24/09/1998 01/10/1998 08/10/1998	15/10/1998 22/10/1998	29/10/1998 05/11/1998