
REPORT ON THE 2011 AUFQ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, March 20th, 2011
VENUE: Comfort Inn and Suites Conference Room, Northgate, Brisbane
NQUEC ATTENDEE: Simon Penprase

This year I attended the AUFQ AGM as the NQUEC representative. I was able to talk in depth with Steve Holyoak, who has recently taken up the post of AUFQ Recreational SCUBA Diving Commissioner.

I met several other AUFQ committee members, as well as many representatives from AUFQ affiliated SCUBA Diving, Spear Fishing, Under Water Hockey, and Free Diving clubs. I gained a lot of information, advice, and guidance regarding issues that affect our club's operations and processes, and I felt these outcomes should be relayed to all NQUEC members.

The following bullet points represent the most significant points I felt were relevant to our club, and do not constitute AUFQ AGM Minutes or an extract of them.

- Steve Holyoak is developing an information folder for each AUFQ affiliated SCUBA Diving Club. The folders will contain current recreational diving guidelines such as the QLD Recreational Diving Code of Practice, safety and emergency management information, activity organiser responsibilities, and insurance requirements. The intent of the folder is to provide each club's Dive Officer or Safety Officer with a 'one-stop-shop' to facilitate and promote the conduct of safe diving activities among insured dive clubs.
- In addition to the hard copy resources to be supplied in the information folders, Steve advised that the Recreational Diving Code of Practice is available online, and I plan to obtain this document for uploading to our club's web site.
- Steve advised that he has formed a working relationship with Murray Leighton and Bob Shutte of QLD Department of Industrial Regulations and that these people field questions and provide guidance on policy and legislation applicable to recreational SCUBA diving. This could be a valuable source of information on matters relating to policy and regulations, and I have obtained their contact details.
- Steve advised that non-profit recreational diving clubs that operate compressors for cylinder filling are required to have air purity tests performed every six months, which I will organise to be conducted by the Townsville Skin Diving Centre.
- Steve also advised that filling cylinders for monetary gain would jeopardise a club's non-profit status, as the provision of a fee-for-service in this way implies the use of a commercial workplace. However, cylinder rental and the contribution of money to subsidise fuel used to operate a compressor does not subject the club or its members to the requirements of a commercial workplace. So in summary, the good news is that we can continue filling and renting cylinders but members must be aware that their monetary contribution does not represent a fee-for-service, money is received only to offset the maintenance and running costs of the equipment.
- I have obtained electronic copies of our club's Certificate of Insurance, Schedule of Insurance, and Insurance Product Disclosure Statement. These documents have now been uploaded to our club's web site.

- AUFQ strongly encourage affiliated clubs to develop and use Position Descriptions and Standard Operating Procedures. While there is no insurance requirement for our club to use these documents, it was widely acknowledged during informal discussions among club representatives that these documents are highly useful for office bearers during their initial term of election (i.e. their hand over/take over from the outgoing committee). I feel such documents would greatly assist new members to understand our club's operation, which may result in members feeling more inclined to nominate for NQUEC committee positions. I will endeavour to develop Position Descriptions and Standard Operating Procedures for the club during the next financial year if re-elected.
 - Steve and the AUFQ Executive Director encouraged clubs to apply for funding through grants in order to purchase safety related equipment and to conduct SCUBA diving 'Have a Go Days', and offered to provide clubs with assistance to identify and submit grant applications.
 - Steve expressed a desire to develop ties among AUFQ affiliated SCUBA diving clubs through the organisation of combined diving trips. Steve reported that many artificial reefs in the form of retired and decommissioned ships, concrete structures, pipes, and construction materials have been developed around Hervey Bay and Morton Bay. This has generally been highly successful, and several sites seem to have attracted huge volumes of fish life. I would like to suggest that a future NQUEC dive trip to the Hervey Bay area be considered as a combined NQUEC/Hervey Bay Dive Club activity.
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