



MEETING MINUTES – November 2024

Date	14/10/2024
Location	MS Teams (online)
Attendees	Alex Brunswick (AB), Philip Good (PG), Helen Armstrong (HA), Demi Bestry (DB), Sabrina Mccay (SM), Mikaela Spires (MS)
Apologies	Mark Man (MM), David Juszkievicz (DJ), Charlotte Ackrill (CA), Raoul Hoffmann (RH), Barb Johnson (BJ),

Proxies: MS is proxy for CA

Meeting start: 6:10 PM

1. Previous items/previous meeting progress

1A. Guild grant

- CA originally said she can do it
- DB said it had a cutoff date on the 29th. CA is going away for fieldwork, so she might not be able to get it done in time for the deadline.
- **HA agreed to ask CA to send the semi-completed forms to her to finish and submit the grant application**

1B. Adding signatures to the MUD bank card

- Not completed yet (adding DB and HA to MUD card as signatories). Will be picked up at next meeting.

1C. Dive Industry and Careers night

- **AB:** event was a great success. All the pizza was eaten, and the speakers did an excellent job of preparing for the talks.
 - **Suggested for next time that we impose a low price for tickets** (as they were free this time). Free tickets meant that we had around 35 people who said that they would come, but as they had not paid for tickets there was no obligation to attend. This resulted in lower attendance than expected.
 - The posters that MS put up around the campus appeared to work – multiple attendees said that this was how they learned about the event.

1D. Woodman Point cleanup dive

- MS ran a cleanup dive at Woodman point.

- MS said that it was a successful dive with a few attendees, although there was not much rubbish.

2. **Treasurer's report**

- HA: All Abrolhos trip refunds have finally gone through. Over the next few months, gear is being serviced and will be our biggest expenditure.

3. **Upcoming events**

2A. Save Our Marine Life movie night

- **MS:** Has been leasing with Save Our Marine Life to organise a movie night like we ran last year.
- MS decided that there is not enough time between now and when SOML wanted to do the event (late November) to organise.
- May be better placed to run the event at the start of next year. Could help us get traction in members before the AGM to attract new committee personnel.

2B. Quiz night

- **DB:** spoke with organisers (CA and ER) and both agreed that the event had not progressed.
- CA and ER plan to run the event at the start of next year. Like the SOML event, this can be used to bolster member attention before the AGM.

2C. Upcoming dives

- **AB** is keen to do a dive in the next month, maybe at Rockingham wreck trail, and maybe Point Peron. Will update the committee of the chosen date in the coming weeks.
- **HA:** warned for AB to be careful running dives that are in groups, because the shed is low on gear to hire currently. This may restrict attendance.
- **PG:** added that some regs are out of service and not in rotation as the servicing dive shop cannot find the parts.
- SM suggested that it would be good to do some dives further south, as it would be closer for Mandurah and Rockingham members to attend.

4. **Social media**

- **(Relating to 5B below):** social media officers to post updated gear hire fees and late fees on Instagram and Facebook, once they are confirmed.

5. Additional items

5A. DJ to stop organising Abrolhos trips next year

- **DB** had a list of items to raise, given to her by DJ. Essentially DJ will no longer run MUD trips to Abrolhos islands as he has done for the last few years.
- **DJ** said he is happy to train up the new person/s responsible for running the trips, and can provide some assistance.
- **PG** said that organising the trips is a lot of work, and It may be a good idea to run the trips every two years. Also, as Curtin University Divers are also allowed to come, perhaps we could request curtin uni divers to run the trips in the alternate years.
- No present committee volunteered to run the trips. Item to be raised at a future meeting.
- **DB** suggested that the AGM could be a good place to get a new committee member involved, or even split the role between two dive officers.

5B. Raising gear prices and late fees

- **PG:** highlighted that money is running low for the club. We will need to do something about it to stay afloat, as servicing costs are increasing. Due to increased prices for everything, suggested that we raise the prices of gear, which have not changed for many years.
- **HA:** suggested that we should be careful not to drive prices too high and limit students from hiring gear – find a balance between club financial needs and students’ value gained from club.
 - o All present committee agreed that \$5 would remain fair for each ancillary equipment (fins wetsuit and masks)
 - o But it would be fair to double prices of SCUBA items which we need to pay servicing costs for (i.e. new price: \$10 for each BCD, regulator set, and cylinder).
 - o This would still allow gear hires for up to 5 days to cost only \$30-\$40. This is still the cheapest gear around so it appears reasonable. **All present committee in favour of these prices.**
- **PG** to run price increases by **MM** and ask if they would be reasonable in **MM’s** view.
- **HA:** also suggested that the club impose overdue fees. As the club has recently had a few people giving gear back very late with no explanation, this may disincentivise such behaviour.
- The person in breach could be required to pay the late/washing fee

- **AB** suggested a fee of \$10 for each shed opening that is missed (i.e. Monday or Friday that the person does not return on); and
- \$5 for not washing gear, per item not washed. If they don't want to pay that, then they could be provided the option to wash it themselves (in the trough outside).
- **All committee in favour.**
- **PG** to add prices to website

5C. Owing corporate groups

- **PG:** corporate groups who have hired gear from us, up to 18 months ago, have been prompted to pay their dues to the club for gear hire. However, they say they have not been able to pay us, due to issues with Murdoch University's financial system.
- **PG** advocated that we should go to the corporate groups and remind them that their bills haven't been paid to the club.
- **PG:** If the issue persists, we could ask the corporate groups to pay us by cash and leave them to chase up the money themselves from financial services, rather than us waiting for what is owed.
- Groups owing include:
 - MAFRL; and
 - coral and sea grass research (i.e. Mike Van Keulen)
- **PG** to email through a list of the owing corporate groups, their contact details, how much they owe and when they owe from.
- **AB** to send an email to the Murdoch University Guild, and cc in **HA and PG**. **AB** to ask the guild to help us internally and liaise with financial services.

5D. Committee meeting days

- **CA** raised before the meeting that the set date (first Tuesday of the month) was not working for everyone. Prompted the committee to revisit the schedule. Some committee members have not been attending as they have forgotten about the set dates that the committee agreed to in one of the first meetings of 2024.
- **DB** suggested we keep meetings in the first week of every month as a baseline/start point.
- **HA** suggested that the secretary (**AB**) asks the committee during the week before the meeting, which days would work and not work for a meeting.
- **AB** to action this by making a personal reminder to ask the committee in the last week of each month, which day will work for a committee meeting during the following week (i.e. the first week of the next month, setting a meeting date for that month).

Meeting end: 7:24 PM