

Queensland report A UF AGM Sydney 18th November 2006

Executive Changes

Sadly due to ill health and family commitments Roger West resigned as President of the Qld AUF. Roger has put a lot of time and effort into getting the Qld AUF where it is today, and I would like his achievements not only in the area of UWH but also in the Administration to be acknowledged by the national association.

I am delighted that John Picard from Townsville has taken on this position, John has been involved in most of the sports in some way, and is a great asset to our team.

Insurance

AUFQ have continued using the same insurance company as in 2005.

Due to the fact that we extended the insurance period to fit in with the AUF National memberships year, this years membership costs rose slightly to \$30 per member. We are hoping with the National association adopting the same insurance, this will help keep all of our costs to a minimum, and also give some continuity over the country for people competing in different states. We have found Nathan Case and Oamps brokers to be very obliging.

Membership

It is now compulsory for Qld members to join the National association.

Although recreational divers constitute a majority of members, rec diver numbers overall declined with 100 opting to leave AUFQ because the university offered cheaper insurance premiums and they see little benefit to AUF membership apart from insurance cover. On the plus side spearfishing memberships increased, however there was a huge drop in UWH memberships. We don't know the reason for this and are curious if other states are having a similar swing away from this sport?

The addition of the Qld logo on the membership cards is greatly appreciated, and has lightened the Executive Directors membership paperwork. Thanks Sue for all your hard work.

It is great to see the sponsorship business on the back of the membership card.

Training:

Once again this year we have been able to provide our members with training in O2 and First Aid, we have also run a Level 1 and level 2 coaching course, thanks to Mary-Anne Stacey for her assistance in this area.

State Commissions

- UWH Commission once again ran a successfully State comp. although with disappointing numbers.*
- Qld was unable to field a team for 2007 Nationals due to several changes by the host state, but several players are trying out for the Aust team to compete in NZ in the Southern Championships.*

Recreational Diving still holds a big percentage of our members, however the lack of perceived membership advantages other than insurance cover continues to create problems for increasing member numbers here.

Spearfishing has had an active year with Mackay Down Under Spearfishing Club hosting the Qld titles in February and Townsville Skindiving Club hosting the 55th National Underwater Fishing Championships at the end of November. The constitution and A section rules regarding spearfishing, however, would appear to still require further work to provide greater clarity and consistency.

After the Nationals, Qld will pass a copy of the process and paperwork used to organise the event, onto the national spearfishing chairman for other states' use in the future.

Kevin Chard was re-appointed to the GBRMPA Fisheries Resource Committee where he sits as a representative for AUF Spearfishing which provides a unique opportunity for AUF to have direct input when matters affecting spearfishers in the Park are raised. His participation has also provided an effective means of educating park managers and other committee stakeholders on how we operate. The Qld Spearfishing Chairman has been very active in the promotion of the sport through all facets of the media this year and it was gratifying that along with the National Spearfishing Chairman, was a finalist in Recfish Australia national admin awards. Qld also had representation at the recent Brisbane conference on Marine Protected Areas.

Qld spearfishing has also developed a strategic plan that is consistent with the national plan.

Risk Management Project

Our risk management project is well underway. Due to the lack of documentation at club and state level, this has turned out to be a much bigger project than any of us ever expected and in many areas of the project we will be referring members to AUF National policies. We were disappointed that a representative from the Fin Swimming area of the AUF did not attend.

Web Page

We are intending to get more involved in the Qld web page and appreciate the advice that Graham has been giving us. My knowledge in this area is lacking.

AUF AGM dates.

My apologies for not being able to attend this meeting, but the change of dates conflicted with family commitments and made it impossible. I would like to request as I did last year that the AGM Date be set a little earlier to give more time to make suitable arrangements.

The committee might like to consider the AGM being held in turn in each state that holds AUF memberships.

Judy Breeze AUFQ Executive Director 16 November 2006.