



ANNUAL REPORT
2015

Events 2015

Dive La Trobe's social events are becoming increasingly successful every year. This year was no exception. It started off with Clean up Australia which allowed for 2015 to start with a splashing success. Shore support and scuba divers worked together to successfully clean up the rubbish below Flinder's Pier. After ridding the pier of harmful garbage, members were able to sit back, relax and enjoy a Dive La Trobe classic BBQ.

This year our mid-year party was themed "Sea Gods and Goddesses". On this memorable night, prizes were assigned to the best costume. Club members and guests of 2015 did not lack creativity with their costumes, as each attendee looked incredible in their interpretation of a sea god or goddess. This event is always a highlight of the mid-year as it provides a remarkable way for Dive La Trobe to say good-bye to its international members, and celebrate the end of the semester.

Dive La Trobe continued its tradition of travelling across the seas to Tasmania for the Combined Clubs Weekend in June. As always this event was a success, full of networking with other Scuba Clubs, and Tasmania diving adventures.

An event highlight of 2015 was Dive La Trobe's Trivia night which occurs once ever semester. On this particular night, club members and guests enjoyed each other's company, food and beverages while mentally competing with one another in a battle of the brains.

Throughout the year, bar nights at the Raccoon Club accompanied by dinner at Chew Burgers were a frequent club outing. These outings in particular helped facilitate Dive La Trobe's outgoing atmosphere where club members of different ages and backgrounds could find a camaraderie outside the water and freely communicate about their diving adventures.

Additionally Dive La Trobe had many weekend events that utilised our boat to get Open Water divers and more advanced divers together for a weekend of diving and socializing.

Membership

Dive La Trobe has had another great year for our members. We have a great number of current students enjoying what Dive La Trobe has to offer.

Some interesting statistics that have come from our membership include:

- 59% of our membership is female, 41% male
- 82% of our membership is made up of new members, whilst we build a good base of renewing members.
- 88% of our membership is made up of current students, 2% Staff, 5% Alumni and 5% Non-La Trobe Community.

We expect our numbers to grow in the 2016 membership year and look forward to welcoming new students to Dive La Trobe

Equipment

The introduction of the equipment officer portfolio in late 2014 has proven to be of great benefit to the club, with an increase in the level of care and maintenance that has been provided to the club equipment. This has ensured better monitoring of club gear, resulting in an increased retention of quality and safe equipment.

In order to continue addressing the growing number of club members diving on a regular basis, ten new Oceanic regulators were purchased in May 2015, which has increased the number of complete Scuba units that are available each week. An exciting new feature of the Oceanic regulators is that the committee opted to choose to integrate a compass into the Veo 2.0 computer console. This feature has allowed more members to practice their navigation skills, resulting in safer and more competent divers.

Other purchases in 2015 included additional open fins to complement the current stock and an order of wetsuit wash to ensure correct washing and good hygiene standards of the club wetsuits. Currently, the equipment officers are investigating options to replenish the stock of masks and snorkels.

A new schedule of a biannual stocktake and complete gear clean was implemented mid-year, which has allowed the equipment officers to ensure that the entire gear stock is well maintained and accounted for. This stocktake showed that, through more careful monitoring of gear hire, few losses or breakages were sustained to equipment this year.

The annual servicing of all the Faber tanks ran smoothly, with no issues being identified on any of the club tanks.

Looking towards the next 12 months will see further concentration placed on the maintenance of the current gear stock. Both the petrol and electric compressors are due to be serviced in December 2015. Whilst the equipment officers are currently looking into options to service the older Hog regulators to ensure that they are able to continue to be used safely. The second stocktake and gear clean is also set to occur in December, which will ensure that the club is well prepared for a busy summer of diving!

Course Coordinators Report

Running parallel to the clubs decision to place a greater focus on member retention, was a subtle restructure of our courses throughout 2015 and a trend toward the development of existing divers.

The past three years had seen the club schedule 6 PADI Open Water Diver courses across the year, 3 each semester. Recognising that a large percentage of our members seek to continue their dive education, 2 of these Open Water courses were substituted for PADI Advanced Open Water Diver and Rescue Diver courses.

Individual members were able to complete the training they had requested, developing their dive skills and knowledge while granting them access to a larger number of dive sites and locations. The club has also benefited from this, having more proficient members to assist others who are beginning, while the overall experience level helps in reinforcing our measures of safety.

In total, our club qualified the following in 2015:

- 16 Open Water Divers
- 8 Advanced Open Water Divers
- 6 Rescue Divers
- 2 Deep Divers
- 2 Wreck Divers

In addition to the numbers above, Dive La Trobe again took part in the La Trobe University Sports "Active on Campus" scheme. This year saw us guide in excess of 50 people who had never before dived, presenting them the opportunity to experience their first breaths underwater.

Coupled with these "try-dive" evenings was the chance to conduct formalised SCUBA Reviews for divers who had been out of the water for an extended period. Most encouraging was that the majority of these divers joined as full members and have since taken part in multiple weekend trips.

Disappointingly, our club didn't produce a Divemaster or Instructor in 2015.

Although the training behind these qualifications is significant, we recognise that it is an area our club must devote time to.

Divemaster, Assistant Instructors and Instructors are tremendous assets to our club, as they allow us to meet the demands of an increasing membership and improve the quality of tuition through varied inputs. We hope that the advancement of current members through the ranks of Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver certification will aid in identifying suitable candidates and help us to achieve this.

Treasurers Report

2015 was proven to be another successful year for Dive La Trobe. We exceeded the budget income with \$7,800 making it a total income of \$70,800. Thanks to all the members and equipment officers looking after the gear well, we did not purchase as much new gear as anticipated. Therefore, we did not spend as much as we had budgeted for. As a Tier 1 club we received the largest subsidy in Dive La Trobe's history this year. We are very thankful to the Sport Centre for helping us grow and sustain the great club that Dive La Trobe has become. The Dive La Trobe merchandise was well expanded in year 2015 and exceeded the budget item with \$1,650. We hope the trend continues upwards so we can all look united on our dive trips and events.

Income	Approximately
OW Course Fees	\$20213
Membership Fees	\$1997
Boat Dives	\$21000
La Trobe University Subsidy	\$21907

Expenditure	Approximately
PADI Costs	\$3730
Equipment	\$9138
Servicing Costs	\$2125
Training Camps	\$18634
Instructor Fees	\$3800

Presidents Report

I feel the best way to define what our club has become in 2015 is to describe what I witnessed at our most recent “try-dive” event: Members who have been a part of the club for years, alongside others who had joined only the week before, each helping one another to create an evening that would benefit people they had yet to meet.

Most would find tasks such as washing equipment and filling tanks as tedious and a constituent of “work”. I don’t believe this is so with Dive La Trobers – the culture we have so often spoken about and aimed for has begun to manifest. The values identified in our Mission Statement and Membership Agreement – support, safety, friendship, enjoyment, education, conservation and improvement – are now more reality than simply pretty words in a well presented document.

If nothing else, 2015 has seen us become a true club.

Whereas the previous 2 years have focused on growing membership numbers, this year was as much about retaining them. It’s no longer unusual to see a student member stay with the club post-graduation. In fact, this is something we strongly encourage and wish to see more of.

Likewise, it’s not unusual to see friends and family of existing members find their way into Dive La Trobe, or pets and small children attend our Thursday night gatherings. This speaks volumes for the culture that our club has created and the atmosphere that all our members can enjoy.

In terms of administrative performance and activity levels, our club is as strong as it has been for years. All criteria attached to provision of our financial subsidy was met throughout the year. We saw an increase in frequency of social events, but more importantly an improvement in the organisation and quality of these. And our participation rates have risen significantly, with the “core” of long term members continuing to expand. We see greater involvement from the La Trobe University community, remaining attractive to visiting international students, while bringing domestic students and alumni into the fold.

Much of this can be attributed to the Position Descriptions that were formalised as part of last year’s promotion to Tier 1 status. These positions have helped to define the many functions that exist within Dive La Trobe and allowed members to assume roles of greater responsibility.

The advantages of this are numerous. Not only does our club receive a healthy mix of experience and perspective, but it helps to spread the load amongst those committed to facilitating our clubs growth, while furthering the development of others who will perpetuate its advancement. For the individual, it’s the opportunity

to gain exposure to a variety of skills and aptitudes that translate to everyday work and life outside of the club.

2015 has been another successful year for our club and all members should be looking forward to more of the same in 2016. This is only possible because of the people involved, and so I would like to give thanks to my fellow Committee Members and Portfolio Holders. Their time and effort is invaluable to our club and our members wouldn't have the opportunities they do without this.

Special thanks must of course go to any and every member who has shown their face on a Thursday night and contributed where they can. Dive La Trobe is a great thing - it is shaped by its members and doesn't exist without them. Thank you.

Until next time – keep safe and keep diving!



Nat Kenyon

2016 Objectives

- Continue to uphold our clubs values of support, safety, friendship, enjoyment, education, conservation and improvement.
- Apply club resources to the retention and development of existing members.
- Continue to promote an all-inclusive and welcoming environment for the La Trobe University Community.
- Regular review and adaption of the clubs Risk Management Plan and Position Descriptions.
- Education and training of internal Divemasters, Assistant Instructors and Instructors.