

REPORT ON COFFS HARBOUR MEETING

The meeting was marred by poor weather which restricted diving to Sunday only. However, the Aanuka Resort and its environs made up for this disappointment.

The lecture programme was well attended with 48 participants. Particularly welcome were local divers, instructors and medical practitioners, some of whom had come considerable distances.

Steve Smith, a marine biologist, gave a most informative talk on the uniqueness of the Solitary Isles.

Alan Bridger's "The middle meatus and sinus problems in diving" was an excellent presentation of a practical and new approach to this important subject.

Unfortunately Cathie Shannon was unable to attend personally, but she provided three case histories of decompression sickness which provoked lively discussion.

Carole Wright gave an interesting talk on "Problems with divers from the instructor's viewpoint". This paper reinforced our role as medical examiners in presenting candidates who are "fit to dive".

Peter Lewis presented a series of diving fatalities from New Zealand in a thought provoking manner which engendered lively debate.

Finally, Larry Thornton gave a superb slide presentation of "Diving in the South Pacific".

The general response to this meeting was most favourable and there appears to good support for further meetings of this type which can contribute to SPUMS educational role in a regional manner.

Darryl Wallner
Organiser

Dr.D.P. Wallner's address is 114 Vasey Crescent, Campbell, A.C.T. 2601, Australia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MARINE STINGER GUIDE

Queensland Surf Rescue
P.O. Box 36
Newstead Queensland 4006
12 April 1991

Sir,

Queensland Surf Life Saving is please to announce the publication of its new educational package on Marine Envenomation. Produced by Dr Peter Fenner, a world authority on marine envenomation and the Association's Marine Stinger Officer, the Guide, posters and video give simple, but most up-to-date information on the identification and treatment of stings and bites from many of our marine creatures.

The "Marine Stinger Guide" is a pocket-sized reference book produced at the very reasonable price of \$Aust 8.00 (plus P&P) with excellent photographs of the creatures and their envenomations. Designed specifically for the first-aid or person involved with the sea in work or leisure, the text is kept brief but factual and has all the most recent information available. As well as descriptions and photographs of the creatures, it describes and illustrates the envenomations and gives effective first aid treatments. There are also relevant sections on awareness and prevention of envenomation.

Two large wall charts on jellyfish envenomation complement the Guide. One is on "Jellyfish Identification" and using the same illustrations as the Marine Stinger Guide, identifies the jellyfish and its sting pattern. The other deals specifically with the treatment of jellyfish stings. The cost is \$Aust 3.00 each (plus P&P).

Later this year, the "Marine Stinger Book" will be available in its 4th edition. It will be much larger than the previous three editions and contain comprehensive details on a wide range of marine envenomation problems. Designed this time as a specific reference guide for the medical fraternity or people scientifically involved or interested in this area, the book will be edited by Drs John Williamson, Peter Fenner and Professor Joseph Burnett. It will also have a number of chapters written by specific experts in field.

Please contact us for further details, or forward an order form to us at above address.

Brett Williamson
Surf Lifesaving

A review of the MARINE STINGER GUIDE appears on page 91 of this issue.