



## Boating Officer's Report – 2019 - 2020

Dusty Carr, 9/8/20

I am pleased to report that both Club vessels are in a good state of seaworthiness, with upgrades being made to various minor systems to make dive operations easier and safer. These include the replacement of both vessels safety flares, equipping both vessels with powerful handheld LED search lights for night dive operations, adding additional gear recovery leads to secure diver's rigs post dive, changing faulty trailer lights, trailer looms and connection plugs to eliminate the need to use the previously employed light board. A modification to the tank rack holder straps has also been made however further work is needed on this system with both boats.

Due to the impact of Coronavirus restrictions in late summer of 2020, operating hours of both vessels were considerably reduced. As a result, at present both boat engines are still within the operating hours recommendations for engine servicing. Vitamin Sea will be due for servicing prior to summer operations provided Covid restrictions do not return. Vitamin Sea has been utilised for several club away trips including a multi-day Kangaroo Island trip. Stargazer has been utilised more regularly for local metro water dives. Considerable effort was put into the general appearance of both vessels, attending to corrosion control and prevention, correcting loose or damaged fittings and general cleanliness. A particularly successful effort was made to lift the appearance of Stargazer through the assistance of club members Rikki Ryan and Michael B. Stargazer is showing signs of age related wear however is in good, seaworthy and serviceable condition.

Items still requiring attention in the near future include the remachining or replacement of the disc brakes on Stargazer's trailer due to surface finish issues and the replacement of both vessel's EPIRB beacons due to unit age and battery life time expiring. Upgrading to safer, more advanced GPS enabled EPIRBs will occur at this time. These newer units will drastically reduce search and rescue times in any emergency situation. Prioritised modification of the tank strap system on both boats is awaiting the arrival of further materials to complete the upgrades. No other maintenance expenditure items are anticipated at this present time.

My sincere thanks go out to my fellow Committee and club members who have been able to contribute to and cover many of the Boating Officer duties and responsibilities while I have been dealing with challenging health issues that have distracted me from the role. I would also like to thank the members who have dedicated their time to training to become future club Boat Handlers or have assisted in the running of club boat dive events. The teamwork and dedication constantly displayed by members is impressive and proves the amazing commitment that exists to make the Club the highly active, varied and fun group that it is. It's a pleasure for me to continue be part of this great club and help make exciting diving events happen.

Richard "Dusty" Carr

Boating Officer 2019 – 2020.