



Presidents Report 2024-2025

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The past year has been a period of remarkable growth and achievement for the Adelaide University Scuba Diving Club. We have seen a significant increase in dive activity, allowing members more opportunities to explore the underwater world and refine their diving skills. Additionally, the club successfully completed a full refresh of our hire equipment, ensuring that members have access to high-quality gear. This refresh has enabled us to introduce comprehensive gear hire packages, offering students and general members an affordable way to access everything needed for a great dive. Our presence at O Week was another major success with the club present for all four days, helping to attract new members and strengthen the presence in the wider university community. Furthermore, we have made significant progress in our new boat proposal. With these successes, the club remains in a strong position, and we anticipate further growth with the upcoming University of South Australia (UniSA) merger. However, the inability to access the Marine Research Centre, remains a challenge, and we look forward to its redevelopment so we can once again offer cost-effective away trips for our student members.

Capital Spending and Infrastructure

Another milestone was achieved this year with the completion of our gear hire refresh and the successful launch of complete gear hire packages. Members can now access all necessary equipment, from tanks and regulators to all the accessories including masks, dive torches, boots, and fins all for a single, affordable fixed price. This initiative has made diving more accessible, especially for students, while simplifying and improving the equipment hire process.

The most significant capital project this year has been submitting our new boat proposal to Adelaide University Sport (AUSF) which is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to upgrade the club's core diving asset. This project, which aims to renew and double our boat diving capacity, has required extensive planning and collaboration with the committee, external vendors, and AUSF. I would like to extend special thanks to our Boating Officer and Treasurer for their work in technical and financial modelling. Their expertise has been crucial in ensuring that our proposal is both practical and financially viable. With our comprehensive proposal now submitted, we are optimistic that AUSF will approve the project in the coming months, and we look forward to bringing it to life.

Membership Engagement

AUSC has continued to advise us to ensure the club composes of at least 50% Adelaide University Students to maintain access to SSAF funding. AUSC continues to meet this target ending with 69% of members connected to Adelaide University - 58% as current students and 11% as alumni or staff as of 31/12/2024. Additionally, our pilot program offering Open Water training discounts to Adelaide University students has proven to be a success, helping new divers onboard with the club. Word has spread throughout the student body, reinforcing our efforts to reduce financial barriers for uncertified student members and making scuba diving more accessible than ever.

Dive Trips

One significant challenge remains is the inability to access the Adelaide University Marine Research Centre, which has historically been a core facility of club operations when away from Adelaide. We have been advised that redevelopment is planned, and once we regain access, the club will be in a position to better utilize our club resources and reintroduce cost-effective away trips for student members.

Conclusion

This year has been one of growth and progress for AUSC. With increased dive activity, improved club gear hire options, and a promising new boat proposal in the works, the club is well-positioned for a bright future. While challenges remain, particularly with the Marine Research Centre, we remain optimistic that solutions are on the horizon. Thank you to all members, boat handlers, activity organisers, and the committee who have contributed to making this year a success. We look forward to another exciting year ahead!

