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## DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB - SCUBA PORTFOLIO

### DUC SCUBA UPDATE 2019-2020:

Due to COVID19 restrictions there will probably be no portfolio report backs at our AGM. In light of that, I thought I would give you an update.

#### COVID19 :

During COVID19 as you all know Diving was banned and then later heavily restricted and this meant for us as well. The restrictions were unclear Throughout and were interpreted differently by everyone. DUC Scuba played a Part along with DAN & many Charters in written Motivation and guidelines for the restriction's to be reduced

Even though there were many '*family and friend*' Dives happening, we could not. If there was just one COVID19 Infection traced back as contracted through DUC, or though DUC advertising it, this would have resulted in not only diving shut down but all the other sports portfolios as well as the club itself.

However we have survived COVID19 so far, and we will continue to do everything we can to keep you and your families safe from it.

#### NEW SCUBA WETROOM:

With the moving of the club and the development of the new one, they kind of "misplaced" my Scuba portfolio wish list? And had decided to give us a container on the temporary Lot (kitted out but, a container regardless)

I refused to accept that and have been back and forth with the architect (again today) and secured us a fixed area and have had our own dedicated wet room built..... So we are a permanent Fixture!!

The site I chose and fought for is perfectly located to access all of our needs ; changing rooms, security whilst our gear is drying, close to the compressor room, easy pick up by the boat, and an area to kit up and wash gear.

I am aiming for us to be HIRA (HAZARD IDENTIFICATION & RISK ASSESSMENT) certified by DAN, this will ensure we live up to international standards both from an administrative perspective as well as safety.

Please be patient with us as it's better for us to do this properly and start with the right foot going forward.

#### SCUBA FUTURE:

I have been busy with plans for us now that we are permanently in our "Home".

Our DUC boat is ready for action thanks to my boat Subcommittee member Andre Jansen & Les Ward has assisted ... (The terrible two...)

I have been attending (along with my dive subcommittee member Sarah Keyser) some interesting and supportive online think tanks including Players in the DIVE INDUSTRY throughout Africa on Growing the dive industry.

My plans for our future here are as follows:

- Development of a sub-committee (underway) to assist in the many areas scuba entails:
- Training & courses , Boat maintenance and upkeep, Away trips & Events, Gear hire, Dive scheduling, Cylinder filling, Safety
- For DUC to host and organize an annual Dive day, including the Spearfishing & Free diving portfolio (our trial run was last year)
- Environmental footprint - Regular Scuba & snorkelling & Free diving clean-up with an educating element for kids afterward
- Second hand Gear sale (annual)
- Regular Hyperbaric chamber dives
- Dive Computer Understanding Course (with Practical element in the water and on a chamber dive, with Dennis Guichard.
- Growing our dive industry starting with our youth, doing more discover scubas and kids days.
- Scuba diving Instructor Support for DUC Members all over Southern Africa. This Means emphasis on supporting our members that are Instructors. This will include:
- An Instructors Register (DUC members only incl. country members) on our website with contact details, Profiles & courses they Offer training for
- A place for courses to be run - (The Huge screen was delivered on Monday)
- A Chat group and a regular Monthly Instructor "Think-tank" Meeting at the club. For instructors in all Schools can bounce around ideas, problems, and solutions. Out of town members will be able to participate via Zoom.
- Our primary role is that of supporting the divers and the dive industry. Making sure that we support all types of divers, from those that have limitations to those that don't. Those that prefer walk-ins or shallow dives to those that love the tech stuff.
- Weekday 'before work' Dives.
- Further development of our Dive Vouchers and Digitising the Process
- Monthly Aliwal schedule with supporting Charters.
- Annual Sodwana Dive away (preferably the Coral Divers Pirate Party).
- Talks and education.

## THE AGM:

**This AGM is going to be a very important one for the future of the Diving division and DUC**

Scuba diving is the largest portfolio of our club (over 960 Paid up Dive Members – excluding the Diving Affiliates and under 18s - Remember Just because you don't see them Diving here in Durban It doesn't mean they are not Active . ) BUT when it comes to voting at the AGM we have the lowest attendance. This means that the other portfolios vote on decisions that affect OUR sport.

*I urge you to please participate this AGM .  
Your Vote counts FOR US as DIVERS.*

I would love to hear your suggestions, ideas and complaints. And I need your support to make sure DUC provides you with the service (as much as possible) you would like this starts with Communication... Talk to me!

We have come a long way since I first agreed to serve you on the committee in 2010, And we must never stop trying to improve

Tracey-Lee Featherstone .,.,. ^ .,.,.><((((°>

**DURBAN UNDERSEA CLUB - SCUBA PORTFOLIO OFFICER (2010 – 2020)**

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"How we look after the ocean will determine the future of life on earth - forever" ~ Dr Sylvia Earle