



**Combined Hunter Underwater Group Inc (CHUG)**  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014**  
**Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay**  
**10.00am - 11.30am**

[combinedhunterunderwatergroup@gmail.com](mailto:combinedhunterunderwatergroup@gmail.com)

**Members Present:** Kate Tinson (chair), Margo Smith, Ashley Smith, Jackie Gillespie (minutes), Gina Mascord, Tom Davis, Andrew Gillespie, Jacqui Ashby, Madeline Fenton, Meryl Larkin.

**Guests:** Jim Dodd, Rob Carraro, Ron Bowditch

**Apologies:** Cath Shorthouse, William Owyong, Ian Marriner, Diane Pacey, Melissa Peachey, Steve Simpson, Nicola Davis

Presentation by Tom Davis on Nelson Bay Sea Slug Census Collaboration

Items	Discussions / comments																					
<b>Previous minutes</b>	Minutes from the 2013-14 AGM were read by Jackie Gillespie Moved Kate Tinson                      Seconded: Ashley Smith																					
<b>President's Report</b>	Tom Davis read the President's Report in the absence of Will Owyong who thanked all the Committee members and gave an overview of the group's achievements to date. Moved Kate Tinson                      Seconded: Gina Mascord																					
	Ashley Smith tabled the financial statement. Balance at 30 June 2014 <b>\$3,626.67</b> Accepted Kate Tinson                      Seconded Gina Mascord																					
<b>Election of 2014-15 office bearers</b>	All Committee positions were declared vacant and the outgoing Committee was thanked for their support and achievements during the past year. A number of nominations were tabled for consideration. The following members constitute the CHUG Committee and all were elected unopposed.																					
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><b>President</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;">Margo Smith</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Moved: Gina Mascord    Seconded: Will Owyong</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Vice President:</b></td> <td>Tom Davis</td> <td>Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Jackie Gillespie</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Treasurer</b></td> <td>Cathie Shorthouse</td> <td>Moved: Ashley Smith    Seconded: Gina Mascord</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Secretary</b></td> <td>Jackie Gillespie</td> <td>Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Will Owyong</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Dive Officer</b></td> <td>Gina Mascord</td> <td>Moved: Ashley Smith    Seconded: Will Owyong</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Project Officer</b></td> <td>Ashley Smith</td> <td>Moved: Gina Mascord    Seconded: Will Owyong</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Committee Member</b></td> <td>Ian Marriner</td> <td>Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Kate Tinson</td> </tr> </table>	<b>President</b>	Margo Smith	Moved: Gina Mascord    Seconded: Will Owyong	<b>Vice President:</b>	Tom Davis	Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Jackie Gillespie	<b>Treasurer</b>	Cathie Shorthouse	Moved: Ashley Smith    Seconded: Gina Mascord	<b>Secretary</b>	Jackie Gillespie	Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Will Owyong	<b>Dive Officer</b>	Gina Mascord	Moved: Ashley Smith    Seconded: Will Owyong	<b>Project Officer</b>	Ashley Smith	Moved: Gina Mascord    Seconded: Will Owyong	<b>Committee Member</b>	Ian Marriner	Moved: Margo Smith    Seconded: Kate Tinson
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**Other Documents:**

- Appendix I                      AGM Agenda
- Appendix II                     2013/14 Events Register
- Appendix III                    President's Report

Meeting closed: 11:30 am

Next AGM : July 2015

2014 AGM Minutes accepted as a true record:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix I

Invitation emailed to all CHUG members and posted on CHUG Facebook page:



You are invited to come along as a CHUG member, or friend, to support your local underwater group.

*Please RSVP for catering.* Further details attached.

## **Combined Hunter Underwater Group Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 5 July 2014  
Tomaree Library, Salamander Bay  
10.00am - 11.00am**

CHUG members and friends  
are invited to attend  
Presentation by Tom Davis  
Nelson Bay's Sea Slug Census Collaboration  
followed by  
**Annual General Meeting**

*Everyone is encouraged to stay for a social dive at Fly Point  
followed by light refreshments.*

**AGM AGENDA**  
President's Report (Will Owyong)  
Treasurer's Report (Ashley Smith)  
Election of office bearers for 2014-15

## APPENDIX II

### Year to Date - Events Register – 2014

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Locations</b>	<b>#</b>
1	Sunday 19 Jan 2014	Marine Debris and Fish ID and social BBQ	Boat Harbour, Nelson Bay	10
2	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	Clean up Australia Day – Marine & Shore – <i>postponed due to weather –rescheduled</i>	Swansea Channel	0
3	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2014	Clean up Australia – Marine & Shore – 100 kg collected	Pipeline, Nelson Bay	14
4	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Sea Slug Census Project (Autumn)	Nelson Bay	22
5	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2014	Annual NURG get together at Exchange Hotel, Beaumont St from 6pm. Open invitation from NURG to CHUG members to participate.	Exchange Hotel, Beaumont St from 6pm	6
6	Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2014	Swansea Channel clean up (rescheduled) Tide 12:58pm 1.16m	Swansea Channel	17
7	23 May 2014	Joint funded activity - DPI / Marine Parks and CHUG	Broughton boat dives	8
8	25 May 2014	Joint funded activity - DPI / Marine Parks and CHUG	Broughton boat dives	14
9	14 June 2014	Sea Slug Census Project (Winter)	Nelson Bay	22
10	29 June 2014	Participation in ORRCA's Annual Whale Census	Redhead and Wybung	15
11	5 July 2014	AGM	Tomaree Library, Nelson Bay	12

## APPENDIX III CHUG AGM President's Report

The Combined Hunter Underwater Group is a not for profit organisation run by volunteers who have a passion for the marine environment and environmental awareness. CHUG continues to strive to bring awareness to the community about the marine environment, encouraging a proactive approach to local issues and a dialog with the scientific community.

Thanks to the CHUG executive committee members whose tireless efforts have propelled this group to what it is today.

- Secretary, Jackie Gillespie, whose organisational skills has assured that CHUG has been able to maintain the high standards. Jackie also kept CHUG's minutes every month, ensuring the executive committee's actions have been fully documented.
- Committee member Gina Mascord who has spent countless hours collecting, **deciphering**, and **interpreting** our underwater handwriting, to collate and submit the data from our marine debris surveys.
- Treasurer, Ash Smith, has maintained the CHUG books and kept us afloat [financially] through its endeavours.
- Committee member Kate Tinson for her contributions and assistance with media and communications.
- Vice President Tom Davis and his wife Nicola who have provided their considerable experience and knowledge of marine science to the group. Tom spearheaded, and continues to spearhead, the Sea Slug Census.
- Committee member Cathie Shorthouse for assisting with the organisation of the Clean Up Australia and LMCC *Eco Angel* events.
- Our publicity officer Margo Smith. Her sheer determination and skills in liaising with government departments, councils, scientists likeminded SCUBA divers, dive shops, media outlets, other community environment groups; and the community on the whole has assured CHUG has continued to go from strength to strength.
- Committee member Ian Marriner for his assistance during surveys.

Special thanks goes out to Hunter Local Land Services, Department of Primary Industries, Associate Professor Steve Smith and Bob Edgar from Southern Cross University, Emma and her team at Let's Go Adventures, Nelson Bay, Nic and his team at Newcastle Dive Centre, Greg from Scuba Shack, Reef Life Survey Foundation and Lake Macquarie & Port Stephens Councils.

I'd also like to thank all of CHUG's members for their commitment and dedication. Without your participation in CHUG events, the group could not have achieved what it has over the past year. In the past 12 months since my last AGM report, this group has achieved much. With the current state of things, the expansion and progression of a citizen science group is no small feat.

To recap of CHUG's activities over the past 12 months:

- In August last year CHUG incorporated Fish ID surveys, utilising the Underwater Volunteers of NSW protocols. During the last 12 months we have also trained more CHUG volunteers in performing Fish ID surveys
- In September Margo Smith went to the NSW Environment Education Conference in Dubbo and gave a presentation titled *CHUG's immersion into marine citizen science*.

- Also in September, CHUG displayed a stand at the LMCC's Living Smart Festival at Speers Point Park. An opportunity to raise our profile at an event attended by over 10 000 people.
- In October, CHUG utilised its new found fish ID skills and performed fish ID surveys at Halifax Marine Park in Nelson Bay and The Haven in Terrigal.
- CHUG concluded the Juvenile Black Cod monitoring program over the Summer as the focus of the study has now shifted. CHUG performed 25 surveys to date.
- In March, CHUG participated in the annual Clean Up Australia event, cleaning up The Pipeline. 100kg was collected from the site. CHUG has participated in EVERY Clean Up Australia event since the group's inception, organising underwater clean ups for local divers to participate in locations such as Swansea Bridge, Boat Harbour, and The Pipeline.
- Also in March CHUG met up with members of the former group NURG (Newcastle Underwater Research Group) at their annual reunion and provided copies of the NURG presentation given at last year's AGM.
- In April CHUG teamed up with Lake Macquarie City Council's "Eco Angel" program to clean up Swansea Channel.
- CHUG organised 3 boat trips through Let's Go Adventure to conduct offshore surveys with available funding from LLS and DPI. Marine debris and fish ID surveys were performed.
- CHUG conducted shore based marine debris surveys, weather permitting, on local dive sites. Training was also provided for new volunteers;
- In December last year, then March and June, CHUG volunteers took part in the Sea Slug Census surveys at Swansea Bridge and various dive sites in Port Stephens area. We were approached and gave an interview on ABC Radio's Aquatic series in March on the project.
- CHUG participated in ORRCA annual whale census, setting up vantage points with another local group OCCI in two locations. True to form, the weather was not on our side with strong gusty conditions making spotting whales more challenging.
- and just last week CHUG's website and Facebook presence is improving with a steady climb in the number of viewers and likes each month.

As quickly as the climate both environmental and political changes, I feel it is an appropriate time that a change happen within CHUG. I will not be running for president, or other committee positions, in the forthcoming nominations due to personal reasons namely getting married, moving cities and finding a new job.

It is not the end of my environment and marine protection activities however. I will continue to strive for more recognition of the environment, and those that protect it, using the skills I've learnt, and skills I'm yet to learn.

For my final task as President I would like to leave you with the following message:

We are now living in what many are calling the *Anthropocene*: an age signifying humanity having the technological capability to directly affect the world and its ecosystems. It is groups, like CHUG, which I hope are remembered, in history and in the minds of generations to come, as playing a positive role in shaping the community opinion and actions in how we treat, and interact with, the marine environment.

Thank you  
Will Owyong