

NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER OF SPUMS

Dr Michael Davis' letter has been shown to Allan Sutherland whose reply is printed below.

21st August 1985

Dear Sir

In the latest newsletter, I read with interest of the establishment of a New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS. There are clear practical advantages to this. However, I object to the undemocratic way in which it has become a fait-accompli without New Zealand members at large first being canvassed for their opinions nor having any say in the organization and the election of officers to the Chapter. Furthermore, information on the inaugural meeting of the Chapter has been so devoid of scientific or medical content that it has been quite impossible for myself in a salaried post to convince the University of the legitimacy of this as a post-graduate meeting or organisation.

So far it seems more like an Auckland faction than a New Zealand Chapter. As a long-standing member of UMS and SPUMS and one of the few physicians in New Zealand actively involved in hyperbaric medicine, I am not at all impressed by the way enthusiasm has so far over-ridden responsibility.

Yours sincerely

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"Outspan"
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7 September 1985

Dear Sir

It is most unfortunate that Dr Michael Davis feels compelled to write to the *SPUMS Journal* in such terms as he has been included in, and informed of, all discussions from the beginning and was invited to the meeting on 11 December 1984 where the decision to proceed with the formation of a New Zealand sub-branch of SPUMS was taken.

He was asked for his advice about the SCUBA DIVING ACCIDENTS decal (figure 1) which was produced jointly by the New Zealand Chapter and the Water Safety Council earlier this year. I am grateful to Ciba-Geigy for their generous financial support which made the production of the decal possible.

In addition he was invited to be a speaker at the forthcoming meeting on Great Barrier Island. I sympathise with him about the problems of getting money for travel expenses. We have been unable to find any money to assist our overseas speaker with travel expenses.

It is my intention to submit in the near future, for publication in the *SPUMS Journal*, the history of the formation of the New Zealand Chapter of SPUMS.

Allan FN Sutherland

FIGURE 1

ADHESIVE LABEL FOR SCUBA TANKS, ETC., GIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FIRST AID FOR DIVING ACCIDENTS WITH CONTACT 'TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR NEW ZEALAND.

