

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DAN PROVIDES FUNDS FOR VANUATU CHAMBER

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31/7/99

Dear Editor

I would like to bring to the notice of SPUMS members that DAN SEAP has now recommenced its evacuation cover for Vanuatu. A recompression chamber, which has recently been installed in Santo, is expected to be operational some time in August.

DAN SEAP has provided training and financial support to assist the establishment of a recompression chamber, the lack of which forced DAN SEAP to cancel its evacuation cover to this popular destination last year, in Vanuatu. In late April, DAN SEAP provided substantial funds to send Bob Ramsay, a Director of DAN SEAP, from the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Dr Tony Holley from Townsville General Hospital to Vanuatu. Tony and Bob spent 7 days in Santo training dive operators and their staff in chamber management, maintenance and use. Dr Holley also made presentations on the management of diving accidents to dive staff, hospital staff and local doctors in Port Vila and Santo. DAN SEAP would like to thank Dr

Holley very sincerely for his efforts. We also wish to pay special tribute to Bob Ramsay for his tremendous efforts over the past 18 months or so in advancing this chamber project to its current stage.

The funds came from the DAN America Chamber Support Program and we are very grateful to DAN America for diverting these funds to the DAN SEAP Region. This has a direct benefit to both our members and to the diving community in general. It is a good example how any support for DAN is used to improve dive safety. This is the major difference between DAN and other diving organisations. Travel insurers and other companies that sell dive insurance are "for profit" entities. As such, revenue is diverted to the directors and/or shareholders. As a non-profit association, DAN has no shareholders, most of its directors act on a completely voluntary basis and any surplus funds are directed towards improving diving safety.

A visit to the DAN SEAP Web Site at www.danseap.com.au will introduce readers to around 70 pages of information about DAN and its activities.

John Lippmann
Executive Director DAN SEAP

Key Words

Accidents, diving safety, hyperbaric facilities.

BOOK REVIEWS

A HISTORY OF CRITICAL CARE AND HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

TW Feeley. Editor.

International Anesthesiology Clinics Vol 37 No. 1 Winter 1999

Lippincott Williams and Wilkins, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Annual Subscription \$US 166-202 depending on the country.

This volume is devoted to previously published articles which appeared in International Anesthesiology Clinics when Intensive Care or Critical Care units were being set up across the world in the 1960s and hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) was finding uses outside the diving world. The seven papers, Development of Intensive Therapy: Background and Development (1966), The Assisted Respiration Unit (1964), pH and Acid-Base Balance Measurements (1989), The Development of Cardiac Resuscitation (1963), Cardiac Deterioration in Shock (1964), Septic Shock (1964) and Hyperbaric Oxygenation, are well worth reading.

The papers all have a historical introduction to the then state of the art. All the topics have had a vast influence on the way that medicine is practised today.

Diving doctors and divers, should turn to page 137 where they will find 30 fascinating pages covering the history of the use of oxygen at increased pressure followed by a summary of the Current Status (1965). By then HBO treatments had been used, to increase oxygenation, for gas gangrene, peripheral vascular insufficiency, impending blindness, cerebral oedema, right to left cardiac shunts, ischaemic pain, carbon monoxide poisoning, staphylococcal and other infections, myocardial infections, strokes, asphyxia neonatorum, hyaline membrane disease, cancer radiotherapy, shock, massive pulmonary embolism, bowel obstruction, emphysema and sickle cell anaemia. Not all the results were good and with the newborn, intubation and ventilation have provided better results.

The possible future uses of hyperbaric oxygenation in 1965 included plastic surgery (not yet), extensive burns (yes) and respiratory conditions associated with impaired