President’s Report 2006

First and foremost I’d like to thank all of the current club members for participating in many of the various activities the club has held throughout the year. This year has been a very interesting time for the club with the introduction of the VSU legislation and an entirely new set of committee members. I’ll keep my president’s report brief but I’d just like to take this opportunity to highlight a few of the things that occurred over the past 12 months.

The year began back in February at the AGM with Phillip Bowley standing down from his position as president. Phillip had been the president of the club for many years and I’d like to personally thank him for all his hard work over this period. The other committee members, apart from Lee Merrow also did not seek re-election and as such four new committee members were elected. These being myself as president, Ross Smith as secretary, Aaron Stafford as treasurer, and Peter Hutterer as IT services. However shortly after the AGM, Lee Merrow resigned as vice president and the committee did not see it necessary to replace him.

In early June we began to feel the affects of the VSU legislation with a significant reduction in the amount of assistance provided by USASA. This led to the committee regrettably increasing the membership and day trip fee structure to compensate for the shortfall of funds. We were also asked to submit a formal proposal to USASA on Uniski’s plan for economic sustainability over the coming years. This proposal had to address ways in which the club could generate the extra funds needed for the day to day operations as well as a long term plan to replace the ski boat. This proposal was presented to the members of the USASA executive committee and it was agreed Uniski would remain as is and would be annually reviewed.

Another significant change for the club this year was a new website and email distribution list. Although in the past the club had a website hosted at www.uniski.tk, it was becoming difficult to maintain and was costly to host. With Peter coming on board to assist with IT services, he developed a new website which can easily be modified by any member of the committee. The address of the website also changed as it is now hosted within the University as it saves on hosting costs. The email distribution list which is used to announce day trips to members was also migrated to a new system. With the old system it was very difficult for more than one person to use and the task of maintaining the list was very time consuming. The new system addressed both of these issues and has been in use for the majority of last year.

In April, Ross Smith held a boat handler’s training day which was a great success with the addition of three new handlers, Keith Smith, Aaron Stafford and Peter Hutterer; congratulations guys. Handlers are such an important part of this club as without you
guys, we wouldn’t be able to run trips. There were also several new drivers accredited throughout the season. With the increased use of the ski boat, it had to be serviced in April and a small amount of equipment also had to be purchased. In August the club participated in the University’s annual Open Day at the City West campus. The boat was brought down from Murray Bridge for the event and I’d like to thank those members who manned the booth throughout the day.

On the skiing front, the club ran numerous weekend trips up until July when the cold weather set in and the boat was put away for the winter. It was great to see so many beginners coming out and trying skiing and wakeboarding for the first time. The 06/07 season began in October and we are still holding weekend trips today in late March. With the warmer weather still here, there are several months left in the season so let’s enjoy it while we still have it.

Finally I’d like to thank the current committee members for their help throughout the year. It has been quite a challenging year for the club and without their help, there wouldn’t be a Uniski club.

Grant Wigley
USASA Ski Club President