

PORPOISE PRODUCTION TIMELINE

1920 – Ted Eldred born 16 th . December 1920 at Healesville in Victoria, Australia.
1945 - Ted Eldred builds first Oxygen Rebreather. The name “Porpoise” is adopted
1948 - Ted Eldred starts building a two stage, single hose regulator prototype.
1949 – First prototype completed.
1950 – Porpoise trade name is registered.
1952 – Ted Eldred and Maurice Batterham register the ‘Breathing Appliance Co. Pty. Ltd’.
1952 – The Porpoise ‘CA’ scuba set is marketed, with bolted body and no pressure relief valve.
1952 - A pressure relief valve is added to the ‘CA’. Hose fittings changed to the two piece fitting.
1953 – First public advertising for Porpoise appears. Australia’s first diving school opens at Melbourne City Baths.
1954 – The ‘CA1’ is released. Screwed together first stage, quick release back pack with buoyancy pad. Round rubber knobs appeared on cylinders
1954 – Ted Eldred, Maurice Batterham and his son Peter and Bob Wallace Mitchell set the Australian scuba depth record in Port Phillip Bay of 110 feet.
1954 – The Australian Navy evaluates and adopts the Porpoise scuba over competitors units.
1955 – ‘CA2’ twin cylinder unit appears, with buoyant backpack.
1955 - I.W.K cylinders introduced
1956 – The ‘Universal’ model is released. First ones had round rubber reserve valves.
1956 – Plastic moulded reserve knobs on ‘Universal’ regulator.
1957 – Plastic coated webbing replaces the canvas back pack on the ‘Universal’ scuba unit.
1957 – Approximate date of the introduction of a locating pin on the inlet valve of the demand valve.
1959 – The ‘Sportsman’ is released. Regulator hoses changed to right hand side.
1959 – Rubber edge covers appear on the diaphragm cover of demand valves. Yoke faced regulators introduced. Some front covers stamped Porpoise.
1960 – Ted sells Breathing Appliance Company to ‘La Spiro Technique’.
1960 – Company changes name to ‘Australian Divers Co. Pty. Ltd’.
1961 – French made ‘Girzat’ cylinders introduced.
1961- Australia’s deepest commercial diving operation completed at a depth of 260 feet at Lake Eucumbene in the Snowy Mountains Scheme, using Porpoise equipment.
1964 – La Spiro Technique sells to R. Wallace Mitchell and the name is changed to ‘Australian Divers (Spiro) Pty. Ltd’. Purge valves introduced on all regulators.
1967 – ‘Sportsman’ becomes the ‘Explorer’ and gets a chrome plated body.
1968 – Production of Porpoise equipment ceases.
1970 – Porpoise disappears from catalogues.
2005- Ted Eldred passed away on 28 th August after suffering a heart attack.

