

AROUND THE CLUBS

TIKI AQUALUNG CLUB

Sorry I missed the deadline last month but we are behind schedule with everything. We've been flat out refitting the Tiki, a 50-ft. lugger, which we bought as a derelict. We went to Harry West, the sailmaker, to buy a new set of sails and they recognised the Tiki as the same lugger they made a suit of sails for previously. The owner then being Errol Flynn.

They told us that many years ago Errol and a Dr. Stevens sailed her around the South Sea Islands.

A big syndicate recently bought a 25,000-ton freighter, the Runic, that was wrecked, high and dry, on a coral reef known as Middleton Reef, 100 miles north of Lord Howe Island. They called down to see the Tiki as they wanted to buy a similar vessel to take about a dozen chaps to salvage the Runic. We won't sell the Tiki so they said they would like some of the Tiki club divers to go over as there were signs of other wrecks that might contain treasure or such. Some of our club sail next week for anything from 3 to 12 months on good money.

I see the girl deep divers stirred up a bit of interest. Actually Jean Kennedy was keen to take out the Aust. Ladies' deep diving record as the South Aust. Sea Urchins mentioned in the July-August issue that Gae Frearson equalled Heather Harding's State record at only 150 ft. According to the Victorian Aqualung Club (Sept. issue), Jill Ratcliffe, of East Brighton, a member of their club, is probably the holder at 210 ft. Now Carlo Fillipetti and Leo Griffiths, of the Port Kembla Club, put Jean through some secret trials last month and told me that Jean has no trouble at 200 ft., going straight down without a pause.

Knowing this, we had a bit up our sleeve over the 150-ft. divers and knew she had a good chance at a new record. However, now that the record, we'll say, is held by Jill Ratcliffe at 210 ft., our club would not be a party to encourage Jean. But she assures me she would welcome a challenge from any lady diver. As far as our club is concerned we will leave it at that. We haven't the divers to take her down deeper anyhow.

See you next month.

— CAPT. COL.
FW 2698.



• JEAN KENNEDY (Tiki)

MEMO: Skindivers Everywhere UNDERWATER COLOUR SLIDE CONTEST

Send your 35mm. underwater slide or slides to the Tiki Aqualung Club, 23 Busby Pde., Waverley, N.S.W., and win a trophy cup. Prize will be given to the best of each dozen slides received. All slides returned.

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS' CLUB

We would like to announce the beginning of a new club in the St. George area devoted mainly to the interests of SCUBA divers.

This club has the activities of the amateur diver at heart, so if you're interested READ ON.

The club's second meeting was held on 17th September when an election of officers was held.

President: DENNIS ROBINSON

Secretary: ROBERT SCOTT

Treasurer: ALLEN MOULE

The delegates to the Council of Underwater Activities are ROBERT SCOTT and JOHN ALLEN.

The First Aid Officer is MISS SYLVIA SANDLER.

Club meetings are to be held each third Monday in the month at KINGSGROVE R.S.L.

All enquiries should be made to Robert Scott — LW 6033.

The club now has 20 financial members and all active members are expected to participate in two outings per month.

The last club outing was held at Clontarf, as one of the members lost his lung there during the week in 96ft. of water. (Who's the mug who lost his lung?) We were promised 10ft. visibility if the sun was shining and zero if not, so after much disorganised chaos (like bailing out a 30ft. x 8ft. barge), we finally decided to get into the water.

Six divers partook in this venture and it was really something to see them gliding down the barnacle encrusted mooring chain to the muddy bottom below. A circular sweep was carried out on the bottom using a 120ft. rope with divers equally spaced along it. After this sweep, all divers returned to the chain without having found the lung, whereupon Bob did a free ascent to the surface.

Another circular sweep was carried out 100 yards upstream, this time in 60ft. of water. This met with success — right at the end of the rope Dennis found his lung. (Boy, was he happy?) After tying the lung to the sweep rope, we all returned to the surface with Bob Scott and Bob Wilson doing a free ascent to the surface.

Poor old Dennis (ever seen a dog with 10 tails?). He was sucking and blowing on that lung for half an hour — checking it, he said, to see if it's O.K. — before we took it away from him.

So, after searching and locating another mooring, we decided to head for home in our luxurious 13ft. cruiser.

In future, at our club outings, we hope to make a full-length movie film on all aspects of diving. This will be an instructional film covering such things as the "Bends", "Air Embolism", "Safety in the Water", etc. — so all you actors, TURN UP.

Must comment on Don who accidentally fell into the water without his suit on (accidentally?). Such a shame.

Well, that's about it, so until next month. . . .

— "MAKO I".