

AROUND THE CLUBS

NEWCASTLE

Our June competition was transferred from Caves Beach to Swansea Heads where conditions were very bad with visibility down to five feet and rough water. We had a record roll-up of about 50 members and cars completely filled up the area. Robert Hatch and Frank Swinkels christened their new Quintrex, also Rick Ferguson and Jeff Wood. Fish were scarce mainly because they were obscured by the dirty water. Peter Kemp suffered some facial injuries when he plunged headlong through the windscreen of Jim Calder's boat, but carried on to win top honours for the day. Mike Sokolowski finished second and won the B grade while Ray Smith was third. Bob Penfold won the C grade and there wasn't a fish weighed-in by any competitor in the newly formed D grade.

After receiving a letter from the Australian Museum on the identification of the "sawtail" surgeon and the spotted surgeon which labelled them as belonging to different family groups, it was decided to separate them in club competitions, the sawtail to retain 10 points per lb. while the spotted surgeon dropped to 8 points per lb. A rare specimen was identified by the museum as previously unknown in N.S.W. and has been entered by Gordon Budden for the Stamina Trophy.

Five club boats made the trip to Broughton Island last Sunday after becoming a little browned off with the continuous filthy condition of the water along the coast and surprisingly found conditions much better, visibility 50 feet and plenty of fish, particularly large schools of big kingfish, but as yet the big crays have not come into the shallow waters.

May Day we have been granted another holiday for six-hour-day weekend which makes us 100% healthy for the State Championships in October, and if we don't collect the bulk of trophies, I'm a poor judge, so start polishing up your sprongers, Sydney. The WOBBER.



R. Smith and R. Scott (S.P.D.C.).

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

The weather Sydney has been experiencing lately soon shows who the keen divers are. Come on, the rest of you! You do not have to own a dry suit to go diving in the winter, despite what John says.

In spite of the bad conditions some interesting events have taken place, including two trawler days and the club's first Scuba championships. The trawler outings continue to be successful and may become regular monthly events.

Results of the Club Championships were:—

Club Champion and Best

Practical Diver	R. Smith
Best Theory Diver	G. Dowse
Junior Champion	G. Dyson

Quite a lot was learnt by both competitors and organisers and the experience gained should prove valuable in the future. Our thanks go to "Prof" Harper and Denis Robinson for organising the championships.

Members are invited to enter their best photos in our photographic competition, which closes in September. Let's hope the water clears by then.

— A.M.

PORT KEMBLA

C/- 240 Flagstaff Rd., Warrawong, N.S.W.

In the past few months it has come to my attention that there are many skindivers in the Wollongong-Port Kembla area who are not aware we have a diving club organised in Port Kembla.

We have 50 members at present and are growing rapidly. Club meetings are held every second Wednesday night at 7.30 p.m. Interested in joining a keen progressive club? Ring J 1205 for information.

It's the club's main aim to promote safe skindiving and in a combined effort the members' first project of this month was the successful Underwater Film Night Social and Dance held on the 14th June. On behalf of the P.K. Skindiving Club, we wish to extend our token of thanks to Sydney notaries and our guests for the night, Ron Taylor, Valerie Heighes, Ben Cropp, Van Laman, Wally Gibbon and U.S.F.A. President Bill Lewis and Mrs. Beryl Lewis.

We were sorry to see no Sydney skindivers present, as they missed a mighty evening. We accepted President Bill Lewis' apologies for boys and friends who couldn't make the night. Our thanks to Sans Souci Dolphins and Port Hacking Penguins who sent apologies via pen and pad that they couldn't attend.

Hope to show our support for your future projects, skindiving competitions, etc. Despite the unreliable weather we still have been diving and our members are getting quite used to the fact that they feel rather than see.

The club made an interesting sequence of film for Channel 4 television station. It shows members doing a training programme designed to show correct and wrong methods of diving off moving craft and emergency pick-up out of water at speed.

Anyone interested to see the film sequence, contact our club.

Our club elections are due, also due are the fees. I can see those mechanical smiles now handing out the quids.

— RICK JEFFERY,

Publicity Officer.

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