

AROUND THE CLUBS

Black Rock Underwater Diving Group (Vic.)

Christmas holidays in sight and the weather up around Green Cape and Bermagui was settling down. Fifteen odd members began to put the finishing touches to their spearing and lung gear, while the old feet began to itch.

Most of the members arrived at Green Cape on Saturday, 21/12/63, being greeted by clear blue water (and three "fuzzy" ones).

Up ten — in suits — splash — with a result of five blue proper, average of 22 lb., amongst them Jeff Harper's first blue, 22lb.

Arriving at Bermagui on the following Monday, saw the fellows at One Tree Rock, where Noel Harper speared a 25-lb. kingfish while Sharkie Clark Espey got a 25-lb. blue. The following days were celebrated in the typical spearos fashion with Christmas dinner at the local "Pot Producing" establishment, while the younger members caught a few waves on the boards.

Friday, "fish day", so a few of the boys decided to help out by trying out Clark's Smoky. The effect on the divers and the wobbies was quite interesting, as this was the first time some of the members had seen the "fun bang" in operation.

With the eclipse of the moon high tides of 6ft. 2ins. were experienced — and we returned from diving to find that we may have stayed in bed and — gone diving in the tent — man, what a mess!

The high tides brought in thousands of salmon and small school fish, making the main bay a sight of mutton, diver birds and penguins having a ball (sorry, stomp) of a time.

Then Kingie fever struck — two days running a few of the boys operated from Dale Whalen and Clark Espey's surf ski-boat and off shore. Four kingies were landed, the largest being 30 lb. by Clark.

Dale and Dave — use your flippers, masks and snorkels next time — it helps they tell me!

Meanwhile John Meggs landed a 24-lb. blue, and Jeff Harper and his Gremmy mates were catching a few rides on the small surf — some of the older gentlemen took to the waves to show them how — Joke.

Clark, Dale and Dave spent a very interesting day diving amongst clouds

of small school fish and trying to get a shot at a large tuna that had rounded up the small fish with the help of salmon and penguins. A 7-ft. whaler nearby would not have a bar of Dave Whalen and his smokey.

Members began to filter back to small fish (monster crays) Victoria around the 3rd-4th-5th-1st-64 while a few members stayed on. Result, some good catches with a 24-lb. blue by Jeff Harper at One Tree Rock also on Sunday 5th members loaded with lungs, cameras and big guns headed to Montague Is. where slam bang Chek Tham nailed a 42-lb. kingie, also a blue of 22 lb. plus a silver drummer of 18 lb. and an 18 lb. kingie by Jeff Harper, being congratulated by Jeff Hum as he took some shots with his "say cheese" box.

The uncouth youths returned to Melbourne dreaming and "sighing" of the day when they will have a crack at the "big uns" again.

New year's resolutions:

1. No wishing for chucker Reg.
 2. Beware of little girls, fathers.
- Safe Diving all.

"SIGH".

South Pacific Divers

Sec. Bob Scott, 58-6033. 30 Burgess St., Kogarah, N.S.W.

Xmas Holidays.

Gary Dowse and Bruce Richards were down at South Aust. for the Champs. I hear Gary was discussing the theory in his sleep? Denis and Co. spent the Xmas period at Currarong. While down 60 feet Bob Quill looked down to see a wobby biting on his leg. Having the presence of mind not to move, he waited until it relaxed its grip in an attempt to swallow him. At this point he slipped his leg out. Just after that the wobby developed a headache. Seems some people just can't take a joke. The Smiths, who were staying at Kiama, were visited by members of the club who completed a series of dives in the "Blow Hole", climaxing with a final dive with a 50-ft. Blow. Bob was last seen negotiating to take the "Hole" back to Sydney.

January Activities:

January 20, Club Meeting. After the meeting slides were shown by club members, also Warren Power came along with a selection of his brother's slides. I didn't know that Warren was Wally Gibbins' press agent.

January 26. Spearfishing Comp. changed to Currarong. Turn-up was not too high, probably due to the fact that the comp. was changed from Ulladulla and also the weather was crook. Peter Harper's obstacle course certainly deserves an award. Denis started late, he had to negotiate the obstacle with Sylvia and the Dog, but he still managed to take out the most species.

Highest Points Score, Peter Harper. Most Species, Denis Robinson. Most Meritorious Fish, Peter Harper. Largest Fish, Bruce Richards. Mystery Fish, Edwin Matiuk.

February Activities:

February 2, Trawler Day.

Feb. 17, Club Meeting.

Announcements:

The club's lung championships is to be held on 8th March at a place to be announced. There will be a seniors, juniors and if enough entrants a ladies' section.

After seeing Ted Louis' catch over the long weekend those remarks in "Letters to the Editor" are certainly not justified. The catch he brought in without the aid of a lung shows Mr. Louis is not getting on in years. "Beate" Bob Smith's song that is now soaring to the top of the charts is hereby printed by popular request.

Whenever I'm sad,
Whenever I'm blue,
Whenever my helmet is heavy;
Beneath the sea,
Just Jim and me,
For a blow-up getting ready.
Sung to the tune of "Just like Eddy".

Persons seen in Clovelly pool without a good excuse will have their "Blow-hole" badges torn off, and masks stood on.

Thought for the Month:

The person whose confidence in the water is dependent upon the water-tight integrity of his face mask is not ready to become a lung diver.

Hard Hat.

N.B. Club News is welcome from all Skindiving Clubs in Australia but please limit to 300 words, plus photos, if any!