

AROUND THE CLUBS

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

C/- Secretary Bob Scott, 30 Burgess Street, Kogarah. 58-6033.

February 28.—Nite dive, Clovelly. Thirty-eight turned up, with only a couple of days' notice. Full moon and clear water made this a first-class night. First nite dive for some 12 months.

March Activities.

March 1.—Bass Point. This was one of those once-a-year days—weather superb. Members headed for their favourite dive spots up and down the coast. Seems members were more interested in diving than practising.

March 7-8.—Scuba Comp., Wottamolla, cancelled due to lack of interest. A future date is to be set.

March 15.—Scuba sports day at Oak Park Wharf. Sportsman of the day: Frank Stevenson. Events:—Fin race: 1st, Frank Stevenson. Breath holding: 1st, John Allen. Buddy breathing: Frank Stevenson—Chris Cooper. Treasure hunt: Various members won prizes donated by St. George Underwater Centre. On behalf of the club members we would like to wish Denis all the best in his new shop. Tug-o'-war event: (—).

March 16.—Club meeting. Slides were shown by Wally Gibbins. Over the last few months members have seen slides by some of Australia's foremost underwater photographers.

March 20.—Nite dive, Clovelly. Considering poor weather, there was a good turnup. What with the "Mosman Maulers" there, it was busier than Pitt Street. Bob Scott and Peter (Prof.) Harper were last seen heading over the breakwater.

April Activities.

Easter: Shoal Bay—March 27-30.

April 4 and 5.—Weekend at Bass Point. Nite dive held in Bushrangers Bay on the Saturday night, followed by a barbecue. The water in the bay goes to about 75 ft.

April 10.—Theatre party to see "Lawrence of Arabia," followed by supper at Chequers. Joan seems to have put quite a bit of work into this social night.

April 19.—Trawler Day.

April 20.—Club Meeting.

Bob Scott is talking about making a nite dive on "Jibbon Bomby." Any "Jibbon Bomby" nite divers please ring 58-6033.

"HARD HAT."

NEWCASTLE NEPTUNES

C/- 24 Victoria St., New Lambton.

This month got off to a good start with a report that eight jewies were shot and landed by rock hop-



• Frank Stevenson (Sportsman of the Day, S.P.D.).

pers Barry Brown, Russ Smith and Norm Boden at an undisclosed locality. Russ Smith speared two fifty-pounders and looks like he has regained his old form.

Our March competition was postponed a week due to adverse weather. The following Sunday, at Swansea Heads, saw a really good sign-on. Fish were really abundant. Robert Hatch speared a 65 lb. mulloway and this looks like it could take the biggest fish of the year trophy. Several large kingies were weighed in, including a 48-pounder by Ray Smith, who also top scored for the day. Seas were choppy and several competitors who could have done well were noticed violently ill on moon island due to sea sickness.

There were many worried faces at Shoal Bay late on the Sunday before Easter. Several boats from the club had fished Broughton that day and later, after arriving back at Shoal Bay, found that Trevor Gear's boat, "Beverly," with Trevor and Kev Wells on board, had not returned.

Thinking he was still fishing, no one worried till later in the evening. Then Doug Hiscox, with Freddy Studden and Bill Locock, went to Broughton to search for them. After many hours looking around without results they returned to Shoal Bay.

On arriving they were told the good news that the missing spearmen were safe and well. The motor had broken down and they had been washed up on Hawks Nest Beach.

I think when several boats fish Broughton, as a safety factor they should meet at a predetermined rendezvous for the trip back.

"A NEPTUNE."

SCUBA DIVING CLUB MELBOURNE

C/- E. Tootell, 25 Darlington Ave., East Coburg, N.13, Melbourne.

REPORT ON SCUBA'S BARBECUE

Well, once again Scuba's barbecue was a howling success, with £100 (approx.) profit towards our club building at Rye. I arrived at Gordon's home at 2 p.m. to find most of the lads (and others) hard at work erecting the bar, P.A. system, etc. Frank Porter must be congratulated for a marvellous bit of carpentry down in a dark corner of the yard. He called it "The Hanging Rail." Jeff Robinson was the first to try it out, and after Frank saw the "this-is-heaven" look on Jeff's face, he has now submitted plans of his invention to the M.M.B.W. for approval. Brian Bradshaw was good enough to bring his new truck along to help cart the "Raspberry." When Brian called for volunteers to pick up the beer, four or five bods rushed for duty. Brian turned away to go, saying, "Righto, chaps, let's jolly well get on with it, and all that stuff." On reaching his truck he turned to his volunteers to find not four bods, but only one (big stomach, that is), hairy, panting bod with a bit of bloodstained 4 x 2 in his mits. "What happened to the others, Rab!" he exclaimed. "I think they just de-volunteered," said Rab. So off Brian and Rab went to collect the goods. Of course, Rab took along his emergency kit consisting of a drill and one super-length drinking straw. Then, of course, there was the episode of shifting car later on in the night. It seems someone had parked their cars across a driveway. On finding no owners for the cars, Ray (alias Sperge) and a few others (can't remember names) set themselves to the task of removing them. You'll have to ask Ray the rest of the details, as I can say no more; but it's a funny thing, every time I see Ray he's always cleaning his teeth with a toothpick!

It was Frank Porter's duty of the night to present on behalf of all the club to Fred Tidiman an inscribed barometer in appreciation of his past work as original founder of Scuba Diving Club, Melbourne. Although Fred is with us no more, we shall never forget his work or the basic facts of his constitution.

CLUB NAME TO BE CHANGED

As "Scuba" is to become registered very soon, a new name will have to be made. Suggestions are welcome, bearing in mind that it can't have anything to do (in name) with any registered business or trade mark, etc.

E. RATPAK.