

New South Wales

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

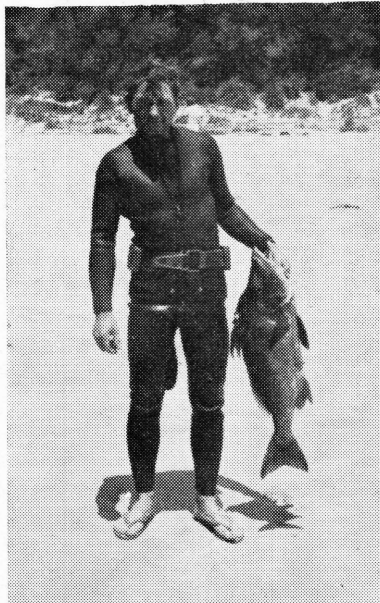
FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES.

On 15th February we held our club meeting. Latest slides taken down at Picaninny Ponds were shown. Also films were shown by Denis Robinson. This was Denis and Sylvia's first trip to S.A. Also down that way were Dave Allen and yours truly. After a week at S.A. we moved across to Vic., where we contacted the Sea Urchins' secretary, Fred Victor. In return for the hospitality of the club we gave them a slide night. Fred Victor and Rick Spaulding took us out to a fishing spot, complete with a sex-mad stringray. Sorry, Sea Urchins, the B/w photos were lost in processing. We then spent a day with the Urchins' president, Bob Cumberland, and members of the Victorian Aqualung Club diving on the pinnacles, one of Vic's better-known spots. We would like to extend an open invitation to any lungers from other States who happen to be up this way to come out and dive with us. Please contact president Denis Robinson at 456 King Georges Road, Beverly Hills; phone 50-0268.

With the news that a large whale shark had been washed up at Bare Island and attempts were being made to drag it back into the water, John Murry and myself drove down to the island, complete with underwater housing and diving gear, hoping for underwater shots; but attempts to remove it failed, so we had to settle for above-water photos. Back there the same night were Peter Harper, Bob Scott, Bruce Richards, Dave Allen and myself, hoping to take a series of flash shots, but to our dismay we found professional fishermen hacking it to pieces. Bob Scott took B/w photos of these butchers and one photo appeared in the next day's Telegraph. The shark was washed up on shore on the 16th February and an article appeared in the papers on 20th February attributed to the Shark Research Group complaining of the way the shark was handled, with such statements as, quote, "Mr. Lander said he had learned that the

shark was to be towed out to sea too late to stop it." . . . "It was dumped four miles off shore before I could intervene." Unquote. It was a little late to start worrying three to four days later. We also learnt from the article that the skeleton should have been preserved. Seems the Society have found that sharks have skeletons! We learn something new every day. *Shark research is a necessary thing, but should be handled by some form of government research—not by a group of individuals.* All duels will be fought with power heads behind the fort on Bare Island before dawn.

Thought for the month: "Shot it alive with a PF5. Courtesy Bob Smith." JOHN ALLEN.



• Dick Baxter (13½-lb. Boarfish)

KINGFISHERS

The Australia Day weekend found the majority of the Kingfishers at Narooma.

The visibility over the three days was about 30 ft.

The fish population must also have realised that it was a long weekend as it was apparent that they had gone on holidays!

Neil Powell had a bit of a scare when a wobby came along and mistook him for a white rock to lie on (Neil doesn't wear a suit)! Wonder who got the biggest scare?

Bob's tent somehow or other ended up in a tree, (wondered why Jacko and Co. were snickering in their tent).

Bob had a little more bad luck when the Blue Bomber of Berry nabbed him for crossing the double line. Bit him for a fiver!

Dick Baxter, Pete Wakefield and myself spent the long weekend at Currarong where Dick has been really wiping out the big fish lately.

To keep up with his previous average he scored a 28½-lb. blue groper on the Sunday and a 13½-lb. boarfish on Monday.

The Taylor Shield Comp. was postponed from Kiama on Sunday, 7th February to Bass Pt. on the 14th Feb.

The seas were slight with 30-ft. visibility. The fish were scarce, but Bob McLay managed to get the most fish in our club (that is, 3!).

The results of the interclub comp. are not known yet, but at least we put up a strong fight.

The club competition on the 21st was a mix-up, as usual, with members all over the place, Long Reef, Stanwell Park and Windang.

At Windang the visibility varied from 20 ft. to 50 ft. but nothing worth mentioning was speared.

The results are still being sorted out.

Dick Baxter and I have been missing out comps. in favour of the Beacroft Peninsula area.

On the 21st, Dick once more showed his form in getting big fish, with a 30½-lb. blue groper.

Paul Nicholson of the M.W.'s was there and 10 minutes later he had a 39 pounder.

Yours truly had to be satisfied with a modest 10-lb. brown groper and a red rock cod and various other fish.

The locals didn't take long to gather, and before we were even out of the water we had a good mercenary mob around us!

NOTICE: Due to a bit of a blue, the club premises are back here at 68 Harris Street, Fairfield, as otherwise stated in last month's magazine.

Until next month,

Doug.