

acceptable also. Last summer Ron and Paul Savelofe had a 10-minute skindiving segment on Channel 9's Saturday "Hour of Sport". Different divers were interviewed each week. All Sydney clubs were mentioned, and how to go about joining them, and suitable underwater footage was screened. This was an unpaid effort to help promote skindiving around Sydney. Unfortunately, business pressures caused Ron to discontinue these showings this summer. Being in Sydney only one week in every four made it impossible to continue. This also makes it impossible for either of us to attend as many spearfishing competitions as we would like to.

Wherever he goes, whether with his films, photos, stories, or just meeting people, Ron Taylor is the greatest benefit to Australian skindiving, both here and overseas. Even the World Championship fund was greatly assisted by Ron and his filming. B.P. donated handsomely, the agreement being that they would give \$600 to the fund provided Ron gave them first access to his stock footage on his return from Tahiti. By agreeing to this, Ron virtually raised the money for his own fare — a fact not widely known. This film will appear on "Pick-a-Box" sometime this year.

When he gets time, Ron is going to make a half-hour colour film on the World Championships, at his own expense. He will then show it around the clubs all over Australia and all money raised this way will go into a special fund to be used exclusively towards sending our TOP skindivers to the next World Championships.

Unfortunately, once again time is a problem, and I can give no date as to when this film will be ready.

I think this just about sums up my husband's major efforts in the skindiving world over the last four years. Ron is not one for making very much of his achievements — so Jack asked me to write this story and let the average skindiver know just what Ron has been doing in the sport.



● Ron Taylor, World Champion

S.C.U.B.A. DIVERS' CONVENTION AT TOOWOON BAY

Over 20 divers signed-on for the second weekend convention organised by the Northern Zone Scuba division of the U.S.F.A. of N.S.W. held at Toowoona Bay on March 12 and 13.

Clubs represented were Newcastle Underwater Research Group, Brisbane Water Aqualung Club and South Pacific Divers' Club. Activities got under way just after 3 p.m. on Saturday to allow those divers travelling long distances time to organise their gear.

Seven boats headed out to the Wide Reef and anchored right on the shallowest section, in about fifteen feet of water. Visibility would have been close to 80ft. but there was a drawback — an extremely swift current running from the north-east. It was

only just possible to swim against it to get to the bottom, but once there, some shelter could be found behind rocks and ledges.

Conditions were good for photography and there were plenty of subjects. Two grey nurse sharks became very curious but shot through when flash bulbs began popping in their eyes. The dive leader carried a smoky in case a dangerous shark was attracted, but none was sighted. This dive was late finishing and the programmed night dive had to be cancelled.

A barbecue on the beach just after dark preceded a gathering in Hazlett's Guest House for the presentation of prizes to winners in the photographic competition. John Allen manned the projector and showed the award winners and a few of his own superb collection. Trophies were presented by Barry Dawson, president of Brisbane Water Club.

Winners were:

SECTION 1

P. Newton (S.P.D.) 1, P. Newton (S.P.D.) 2, P. Newton (S.P.D.) 3.

SECTION 2

P. Armstrong (N.U.R.G.) 1, Barry Dawson (B.W.A.C.) 2, P. Newton (S.P.D.) 3.

SECTION 3

John Allen (S.P.D.) 1, B. Dawson 2 and 3.

SECTION 4

O. Drew (N.U.R.G.) 1, J. Allen 2, P. Newton 3.

SECTION 5

R. Summersby (B.W.A.C.) 1 and 2, N. Taylor (B.W.A.C.).

SECTION 6

J. Allen 1 and 3, P. Newton 2.

On Sunday a dive was held around 10 a.m. on the inner-reef. It was found that the current had slackened off with a subsequent decrease in visibility which was down to about 30ft.

The most unusual specimen collected during the weekend was Owen Drew's blue-coloured sponge which looked like a small staghorn and felt like coral. The convention closed on Sunday afternoon.