

AROUND THE CLUBS:—

NEWCASTLE NEPTUNES

c/- 24 Victoria Street
NEW LAMBTON

The Neptunes team has returned after their victories in New Zealand Spearfishing Championships. Ray Smith, Gordon Budden and Ron Smith finished first, second and third and the team of Ray Smith, Gordon Budden, Robert Hatch and Frank Swinkels won the teams event. Since the club was only allowed one team of four, Ron had to fish with John Seckold of Kingfishers as Australian Team No. 2 and they finished tenth.

Congratulations to all those who did so well. The team went over just after the Canada Cup which Buddo carried off this year, Neptunes also did well in this event.

We would like to thank the Dolphins for the great send-off do at Mascot and our own club members for also showing up before and after to help with the gear.

Looks like Ron Smith is winning the inter-dominion Kingfish Cup competition with a 65-pounder speared in New Zealand.

Two club members have had near-misses with their eyesight recently. Phil Gibson hammered a nail which flew back and hit him in the eyeball and Fred Studden fired a smoke at a nurse which flew back, smashed through his mask and into his face just below his eye. Both men are now back in the water with scars healing well.

A really good exhibition of marine life, shells, crayfish, gorgonia skin-diving equipment, etc., was put on by the Neptunes in the Commonwealth Bank building at the Newcastle Show. Thousands of people viewed the display, which I hope gave us a few more members.

The club's February competition was won by Gordon Budden, scoring over 400 points for the second time so far this year. He also won the most meritorious fish trophy with a 3 lb. 2 oz. bream, from Kent Reynolds 5 lb. 9 oz. wirrah cod. Ian Dodd's 9 lb. 14 oz. black cod was one of the largest fish of this species weighed in for some time.

Scores were — A Grade: G. Budden 422, Ray Smith 344, R. Hatch 309. A-Reserve: J. Merlo 181, A. Nunn 141, Ron Smith 108. B Grade: K. Reynolds 221, K. Lewis 96. C Grade: I. Dodd 116, E. Thirkell 114, D. Davies (jnr.) 78. D Grade: D. Grigg 115, M. Eather and J. Buckland 103, G. Twigger (jnr.) 77.

— NEPTUNE MERMAID

N.B. Copy deadline is definitely the end of each month this copy was received for March Magazine — but as no news received up to 31-3-67 — published in April issue.

EDITOR

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

c/- John Allen
1/9 Hillard St.,
Wiley Park

CHRISTMAS — NEW YEAR

No official outings but members visited their favourite dive spots from Heron Island to Piccaninny Ponds.

JAN. 15th, CLUB MEETING

After a well attended meeting slides were shown by Barry Igors, Lindsay Ditchburn and Alan Moule. Movies were shown by pres. Denis Robinson, club outings for the following Sunday were S.P.D. — Bass Point Peter Harper Toowoomba Bay both of these outings were a success.

Visitors Month. Bob Scott, complete with female spear carrier, back from New Guinea, congratulations to Bob and Rosalyn on their engagement and Ray (on that wonderful day) Hindes and his wife Jill.

Upon Bob's return from N.G. he just happened to have a spare torpedo in his luggage which is now on display at Steptoe & Son, 456 King Georges Road, Beverly Hills.

Members please note that wheel chair races will be organised for club members who conveniently forget their gear on club outings, Bob Smith tells me he's thinking of fitting a second carburettor, you'll never catch me Bob?

Our thanks to those Mt. Gambians Graham McKenzie and Snowy Raggett for without who's assistance our visits to the various dives in Mt. Gambier would not have been possible.

We are now organising a series of Deep Dives for those members who have yet to pass the two hundred foot mark, this will be climaxed by dives during the summer on Sydney's under-sea peak home of the intamous 25 ft. White Pointer (who's kidding who).

Anyone wishing to contact John Luten who has now returned to the South Coast ab. diving contact P.O. Eden.*

FEBRUARY ACT

Deep dive was arranged for members who had not yet dived past 150 ft. at least half those hitting the water suffered slight narcosis —

depth 175 ft. — our thanks to Bob Smith and Alan Moule for supplying water transport, our next scheduled deep dive is the "Peaks" depth about 220 ft.

CLUB MEETING

Slides shown by members — these were taken during Christmas diving trips.

CLUB OUTING

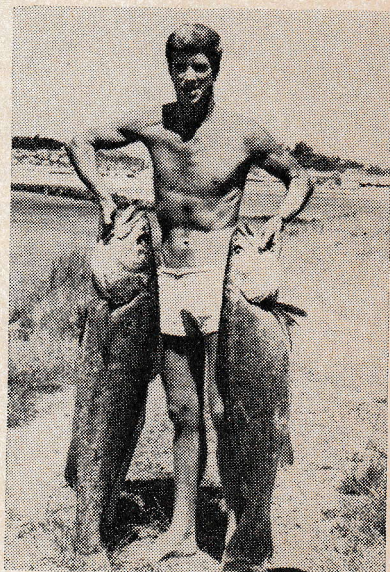
This was held at Shellharbour so members could enter the Treasure Hunt organised by Mid South "Marlins" over one hundred divers attended in pathetic weather, noticeably missing was the gentleman who proposed that the outing should be held there (there must have been something on at Toowoomba Bay) no comment on how we went.

Ron Taylors shark spearing column is starting to look like S.P.D. notes, with all the knocks at various happenings in the sport, although we'll go along with his statement that Australia has the world's best sports divers.

*Wanted. Rusty swords to dispatch harmless sharks, contact Ben Cropp or Bela Csidi (Noted Australian Diver).

If you are offended by not reading your name in these notes wait till next month.

JOHN ALLEN



● Rod Stanley (Pt. H.) 35 and 50 lb. Jews up North.