

AROUND THE CLUBS:—

THE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB SYDNEY

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The members of the U.P.C. have been a busy lot this last month, with a full dive schedule which included all types of diving from a dirty dive in a damn dam, with Reg, Ernie, Danny and Adrian attempting to retrieve a Morris car from 40 feet of water (mud) in the dam, but more about that later. The climax of last month's dive schedule was our regular 4-day Easter camp dive, this year held at Ulladulla on the South Coast. The water conditions and visibility were absolutely perfect, seas were flat, fish and photographic material in abundance, and as usual the community spirit was at a high level, but owing to the excessive amount of diving that was done the Saturday night campfire (usually a fun-filled feature) was rather quiet and broke up early, leaving only four of us, namely, Kye and Ray Thompson, Jon Sholts and myself, as a discussion group which kept the fire burning brightly until 3.23 next morning.

Burrill Rocks, four miles south of the lighthouse, had 50 feet visibility at a depth of 80 feet. Visibility also was good around the lighthouse gutter, on the north side, in 50 feet of water, being a good 60 feet.

Wherever we dived, conditions

were perfect, and these perfect conditions have served as a prelude to our forthcoming annual three weeks' Barrier Reef island dive, to be held in August this year. (Members refer to me in regard to this dive.)

The final judging and presentation of trophies and awards for the International Underwater Photographic Competition was held on Wednesday 16th at our annual general meeting, along with the election of office-bearers for the coming year.

The photographic competition, I feel, was not quite up to expectations, considering all the planning and work that went on behind the scenes to get this competition going. However, we all have learnt a lot of good points for our next competition.

The election of office-bearers went smoothly and we have a lot of new blood heading the club. Vigorous men like our new President, Ray James, and his Vice-President, Graham Luker, and their five committeemen, so between them they should be able to whip up a storm of fun and good dives for this diving year. So keep in touch with us by reading our articles in this magazine, or better still, come along and meet us at our meetings. We hold them at 7.30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Manly Vale Civic Centre, corner of Condamine Street and Innes Road (Gregory's Map 77, Ref. D-11), near Miller's Manly Vale Hotel.

All visitors welcome. Coming meetings will be held on 18th June, 16th July and 20th August.

Your friend in diving,

"SPIKE" MARLIN

SOUTH PACIFIC DIVERS

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Club Meeting—21st April

Large roll up of some 50 people, of which about half would be visitors or prospective members. Slides after the meeting were shown by Bob Smith, Tom Byron and John Jansens.

Discussion ranged over a few topics, including the death of a diver at Kilsbury's and also the outdated Mortality Fund of the U.S.F.A. Personally I think that this mortality fund is a bit of a waste of time and money. My views are that the U.S.F.A. should have a compulsory comprehensive insurance taken out on divers when they join. This sort of thing is done by other sporting associations, including the Sydney Hockey Association, and is superior to a mortality fund. I don't know who would insure divers and for what amount of money, so any correspondence would be welcome.

A few members went north to the Scuba Convention at Coffs Harbour at Easter and found that the U.S.F.A. guys were pretty cunning as no divers were able to go out on any of the trawlers unless they belonged to the U.S.F.A., so to get a dive they all had to fork over their fees.

Past Activities

First dive of the month was held at Huskisson and was a trawler day, only one thing being wrong — the trawler didn't show up, so the dive was then held at Stoney Creek.

Over Easter most of the guys went to Montague Island to play with the seals.

Future Activities

May 14th: Lobster Bay or Duffers Bay, and possibly a dive on the Merimbula.

May 18th: Beer-be-dive at Currarong.

April 30th: Night dive at Ship Rock.

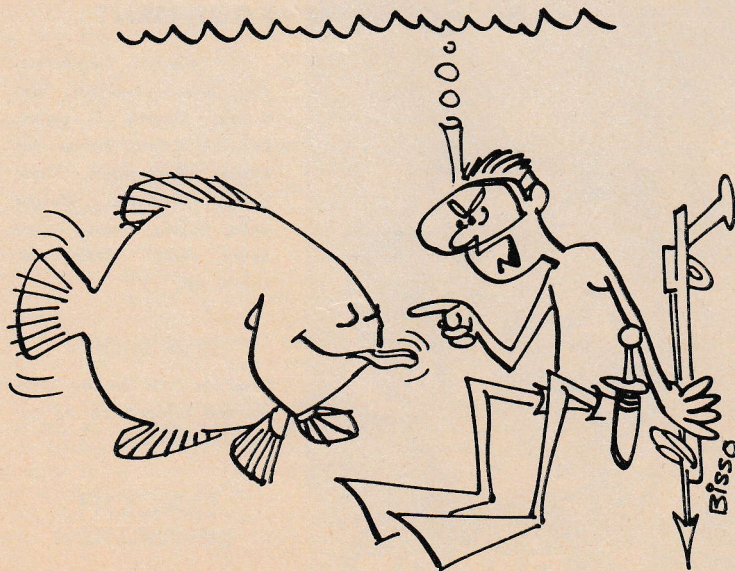
There is a bit of a stir going around at the moment concerning Lloyd II, but nobody was game enough to tell me about it—it must be a bit bad!

I am beginning to wonder if I can keep up with all the members' wives with their hair colours. One in particular was blonde at the meeting before last, last meeting was black, and I hesitate to guess what colour it will be at the next meeting. What about you, Robyn? Couldn't you go pink or blue, or maybe even primrose? (Only kidding.)

Just about this time of the year comes the happiest time for club members — FEE TIME. How about it, everyone, see our Treasurer, Ron Smith, at the next club meeting.

See you at Ship Rock, Tom!

DES HENNESSY



...AND WHERE WERE YOU HIDING BEFORE THE BAN?