

SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION — 2/-
THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION, U.S.F.A.

'SNORKEL'

Vol. 2, No. 8

DECEMBER, 1954



Sea-Sport

(Products)

Wish All

Spearfishermen

A Merry

Christmas and

A Happy

New Year

“SNORKEL”

Official Organ of the U.S.F.A.V.

Vol. 2, No. 8

DEC., 1954

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All copy should be sent to The Editor, Don Brown, 61 Kerferd St., East Malvern, before the 18th of each month. Responsibility is accepted only for Editorial comment and opinion.

Advertising matter only to N. Welsford, 63 North Road, Oakleigh.
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OUR COVER

Man v. Shark! The underwater intruder in a desperate battle against the much vaunted killer of the deep. But the result is not always so one-sided as our illustration would appear. Print by courtesy of R.K.O. Radio Pictures (A'asia.) Pty. Ltd., from their epic "The Sea Around Us."

Editorial

Another year draws to an eventful close.

There have been talks of bans, discord with certain fishing bodies, and a few fatalities.

Despite these, the Association has come through the troubled waters with increased prestige, due to the tireless efforts of the national and individual State bodies.

But in the midst of this apparent prosperity is a stark reminder that we have not yet reached our Utopia.

There is a very real and urgent demand for a greater sense of safety, which should be highly developed in each one of us. We must also be constantly alert of the danger to the other bloke, and make him aware of it.

Many safety devices — good ones, too — are now on the market, but for all our knowledge and improved techniques, spearmen are still being drowned. The circumstances might have been different in some cases IF the proper precautions had been taken.

A Sub-Aqua Group has been formed in Victoria and will place aqualunging here on a high safety level, as well as impart the benefits of group activities.

At Christmas, four hundred enthusiasts and their families will camp on the Bellarine Peninsula for the Third Australian Convention. The Committee has done everything possible to provide safety measures, but in the final analysis it rests with you, the individual, as to whether the camp will have an accident-free record.

We wish spearmen everywhere the compliments of the season, and bigger and better fish during the coming year.

WHAT'S ON

- Dec. 12 — Second Aggregate, Mornington.
- Dec. 29 to Jan. 3 — Australian Convention at Point Lonsdale.
- Jan. 9 — Social Outing, Williamstown.

AUSTRALIAN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First let me take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas, a happy and prosperous New Year, and good spearing always.

I would like to thank the Victorian Association for the splendid effort and hard work they have put into this coming Convention to make it the success that it deserves.

Looking back, it is apparent to everyone the tremendous growth of the underwater spearmen and aqua-lung divers throughout Australia. Their numbers are increasing, associations are getting bigger, country clubs who are affiliated with their State associations are getting more numerous to the benefit of everyone in the exploration and the sport of the underwater.

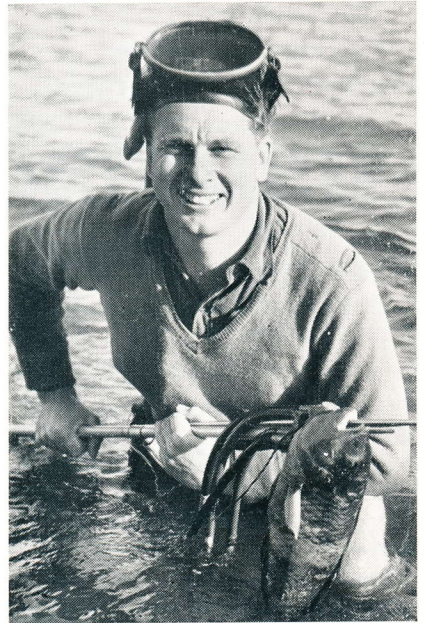
I would like to see every association in Australia get in touch with their State Fisheries Department and the C.S.I.R.O. and ask them can we help them in any way. Give us a specific task to do, something to look for, something to find out for them. In New South Wales everyone complains of the scarcity of fish on the coast and in the estuaries to what it was say ten years ago. If we got together we might find out for them, and there are other things they possibly would like to know.

By doing good deeds such as this — like the West Australian and South Australian U.S.F.A.'s, who for a long time have been doing a splendid service in obtaining specimens for their museums and scientific bodies — we do a great service to the country, and the reputation and prestige of the Australian skin diver goes up in leaps and bounds. Fishery departments might be a little more lenient towards us, when it comes to talking of closures and bans.

Again wishing everyone all the best, and success to the Convention,

DICK CHARLES,
Federal President,
U.S.F.A. of Australia.

.....
SOCIAL SECRETARY



Vice-President and Social Secretary, Frank Matthews, is a foundation member of the U.S.F.A. of Victoria.

Frank was winner of the Victorian Open and Aggregate Championships in the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons, and runner-up to Roy Howell last year. He is handling all the social arrangements for the Convention.

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WELCOME AUSTRALIA!

About four hundred spearfishing enthusiasts are expected to gather at the Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale area for the Third Annual Australian Convention.

The camp site is close to both townships, and faces the best fishing grounds in the State. There are opportunities for bay and ocean fishing, with good hauls being assured.

The programme is:

Tuesday, December 28: Setting up camp. Convention committee meeting 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29: Official opening 3 p.m. Treasure hunt, 3.30-4.30 p.m.

Thursday, December 30: Junior Championships, Ladies' Championships, — p.m.

Friday, December 31: Pairs' Championships, a.m. Aqualung event, p.m. Barbecue, evening.

Saturday, January 1: Teams' Event, a.m. Social, children's sports, etc. p.m.

Sunday, January 2: Australian Championship.

Monday, January 3: Alternative day for Australian Championships. Presentation Ball and Barbecue in evening.

As guest houses are filled to capacity during the Christmas season, Royal Park was chosen after careful deliberation as the Convention site.

It offers, free of charge to interstate visitors, adequate flood lighting, water, toilet and ablution facilities during the camp. Ample space is provided for caravans, cars and tents.

As it will be the height of the bush-fire season, campers are asked to bring primus-type stoves. Local tradesmen will call regularly with all necessary provisions, etc.

Arrangements will be made to collect interstate travellers in Melbourne, providing notice is given. Victorian members can travel by train to Geelong and thence by bus to Queenscliff. Sign posts will direct cars to the site.

Conventioneers are cordially invited to set up camp a few days before the official opening and stay on into

the New Year, thus affording themselves a pleasant vacation.

All members of the U.S.F.A. of Australia, their families and friends, will be issued with identification badges to give them access to all the fun and enjoyment the Convention offers.

Finally, the U.S.F.A. of Victoria gratefully thanks the Mayor and Council of Queenscliff for their magnificent co-operation and enthusiasm in arranging the Convention.

Further particulars can be had from the Honorary Secretary, U.S.F.A.V., A. W. Taunton, 11 Tilba Street, Essendon, W.5.

STOP PRESS! SPEARMAN DROWNS

A 23-year-old spearman was drowned at Point Lonsdale on Sunday, December 12.

The spearman, Lawrence David Burns, was an experienced member of the U.S.F.A.V.

Oldiers in the area reported seeing Lawrence enter the water about 11 a.m. with all his gear.

They later saw him threshing the water about 300 yards from shore. He swam towards the beach, but vanished when about 100 yards offshore. The cause of his death is unknown at the moment.

The U.S.F.A.V. tenders its sincere sorrow and sympathy to Lawrence's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burns, of Hillside Parade, Strathmore.

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

By BILL YOUNG

A sparkling diadem of breathtaking beauty lies off the north-east coast of Australia, stretching for 1200 miles from Rockhampton to the Gulf of Papua.

The Great Barrier Reef — one of the most amazing and picturesque panoramas in the world — is the Mecca of the underwater enthusiast.

Since the beginning of time the Reef has stood as a protecting break-water against the south-east trade winds and tropical storms which buffet the Queensland coast.

Never more distant than 100 miles from the coast, it approaches at Cape Melville to within seven miles of the mainland. At high tide it is the largest and most dangerous nautical hazard in existence.

Evidence exists that the Chinese first visited the Reef some 2,500 years ago. In 1770, Captain Cook named Possession Island off the western shore of Cape York. Some 20 years later Captain William Bligh landed on some islands in the area after he was cast adrift from the "Bounty."

In 1792 Bligh was back in Torres Strait, with Mathew Flinders as his Junior Officer. Ten years later Flinders chartered the Reef in the "Investigator." In 1836 Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist, began to formulate his Theory of Coral Reefs after studies in the vicinity of the Reef.

Nature has spread herself in a riot of colour on teeming flora and fauna found among the coral. The bright hues of the marine life blend naturally with the more delicate pastel shades of the coral to form a fascinating combination.

The underwater explorer is more interested though in the variety of species found there. A few are:

The Butterfly Cod—

For sheer beauty this fish must be classed the King of the Reef. Its body is covered with vertical scarlet stripes on a white-cream background, and its expansive dorsal and pectoral fins flutter back and forth like richly

embroidered sails. Like so much of the coral it loses its fragile beauty when it dies. Its spines are venomous, and require careful handling.

The Sucker Fish —

This is undoubtedly the laziest fish on the Reef. Although a strong swimmer, it prefers to cling to the larger denizens like the turtle or shark.

When it wants to leave its "taxi," the sucker fish merely swims forward. If any attempt to free it is made by pulling it backwards, it will be torn rather than lose its hold.

Small Demoiselles —

These are most attractive, are about three to four inches long, and have a variety of colours. Some are a light blue, so brilliant that they give the effect of phosphorescence when seen under water. Many are a rare green shade, while others have golden tipped tails.

Coral Cod —

These are a brilliant red, covered with fine blue spots.

Parrot Fish —

There are many members of this species, and the undersea explorer will see an abundance of varying colours.

The Stone Fish —

Considered one of the world's most poisonous and ugliest fish. It is well worth keeping clear of, with the body a mass of slimy excrescences and a great mouth tinted a sickly green inside.

The aborigines dread it, calling it the sea-devil, warty ghou, and sea-scorpion.

Unfortunately it frequents most of the coral growths which are visible at low tide and are a hunting ground for countless fossickers. Its camou-

flage is perfect, defying the keenest eye. The slightest contact with the stone fish causes each of the 13 poison-loaded spines along its back to spring up, inflicting a terrible sting. The venom destroys the red corpuscles in the blood, and causes extreme nerve pain and death, or at the best, days of agony.

Sharks —

No tale would be complete without mention of the "Old Faithfuls." Although many species of shark are plentiful around the Reef, a group of U.S.F.A.V. members found they paid little or no interest to the intruder of their own domain.

The fish of the Great Barrier Reef are so numerous that only a few can be mentioned here. It is suffice to say that the underwater explorer will meet a different species on each underwater excursion.

Just as interesting are the many shellfish found in the rock pools. It is a conchologist's Paradise, and collectors and students explore the Reef

flats in all seasons, fascinated by the teeming life amid the coral. Reef eels, beche-de-mer, clams, anemones, crabs and turtles all add their share of colour and mystery.

The coral itself is equally enthralling. The two types are:

Soft Corals —

Closely related to the hard corals, but are unable to secrete lime and so lack the rigid frame of their cousins. The most common forms are green, brown or yellow, and they feed at night through the eight tentacles of extended polyps on their surfaces.

Hard Coral —

This is mainly carbonate of lime. The surface is composed of many small depressions which are the home of the coral polyp, who form the reefs by deposits of lime. The coral we see is actually the skeletons of these small animals. The reefs exist entirely on animal food.

Care should be taken to avoid cuts by the coral, which can result in painful coral poisoning or dermatitis.



A giant clam, one of the dangers of the Great Barrier Reef, bares its hungry mouth to the underwater photographer.

FISHING THE CONVENTION AREA

By "MADDIE"

Point Lonsdale, on the tip of the Bellarine Peninsula, faces Bass Strait and is the western headland of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay.

On the ocean side, many reefs are exposed at low tide, revealing rock pools protected from the pounding surf.

If the weather is charitable and seas are calm, you can wade out past the pools and enjoy excellent spear-fishing in the deep clear holes abounding in butterfish, luderick and crays.

Moving east of the surf, a big partially-exposed reef is met at the very point. It is usually awash and surrounded by dangerous rips and eddies. Between this breakwater and the pier there is an abundance of bull kelp, a happy hunting ground for trumpeter, butterfish and parrotfish.

To the north of the pier (marked Pt. Lonsdale on map), there is a sandy patch extending about 150 yards. Salmon school over this patch in summer, but are particularly wary and hard to approach. Local fishermen report large schools of yellow-tail kingfish coming into the shallows around Pt. Lonsdale in December and January, but as yet none have been speared.

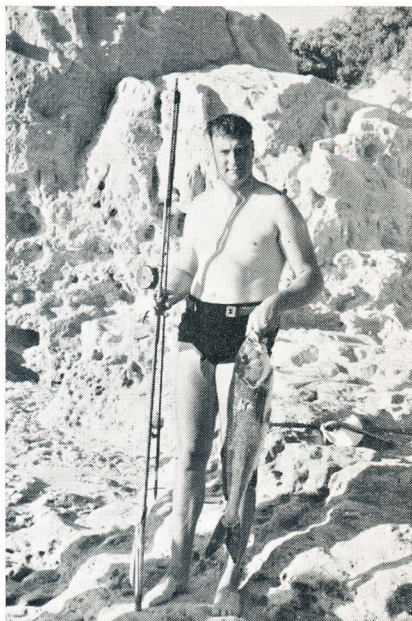
About a third of a mile north of the point is a ridge of rock running out to sea for about 100 yards. The whole of this reef can just be seen at low tide, and affords a natural shelter for nearly all the species of rockfish found in Victoria.

Another half-mile north of this spot there is considerable reef, offshore from the cemetery. Good-size butterfish abound in this region.

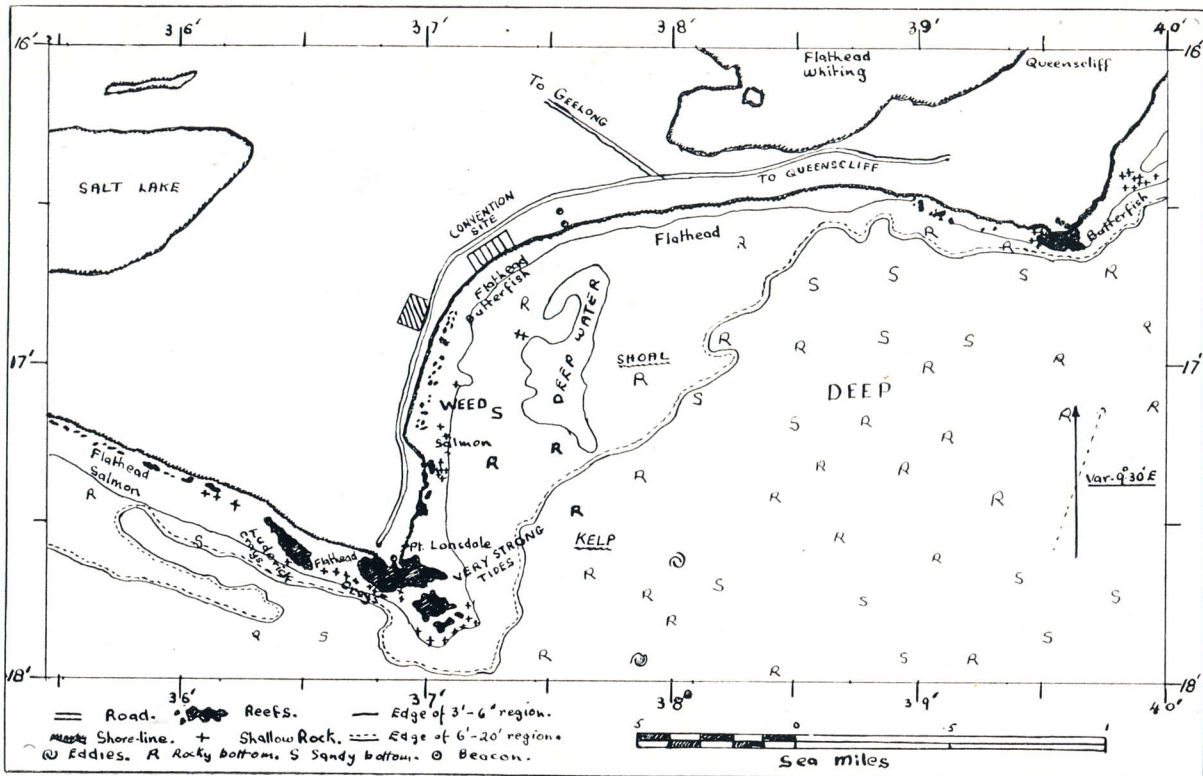
Directly opposite the Convention site is a sandy patch extending out to sea for about 50 yards — depending on the tide. It then meets a semi-weed and reef covered bottom which covers a large area as far as

the hole marked Deep Water on the map.

Among the fish taken here are butterfish, luderick, pike, parrotfish, blue-nose trumpeter, scaley fin, and possibly yellowtail. Scaley fin is only speared as a last resort — you may be lucky enough to come across a 25 lb. yellowtail.



South Australian Open Champ. for 1953-54 is Jack Conquest, sporting a decent size buttery.



VICTORIA FORMS EXPLORERS' CLUB

The aqualung group of the U.S.F.A.V. held its inaugural meeting at the Y.M.C.A. on November 25.

The aim of the group is the furtherance of underwater activities, and assistance in the uses and manufacture of all types of underwater equipment by and for members of the club.

The elected office bearers are:

Patrons: Two to be appointed.

President: Ex-officio.

Vice-President: Ex-officio.

Chairman: Ray Cameron.

Secretary-Treasurer: Bill Young.

Committee: John Allen, Bruce Owen, Barry Greene and John Brown.

The first committee meeting was set for December 7. Ray Cameron told the members that there would be an outing early in the New Year, and a lecture, if possible before Christmas.

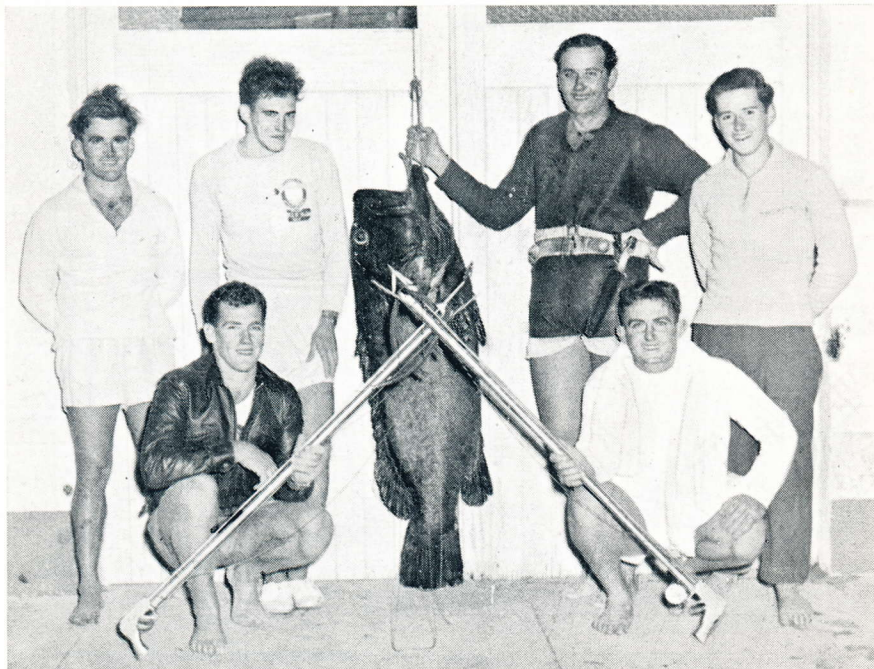
The proposed by-laws are:

1. All members must be members of the U.S.F.A.V.

2. Administration is covered by the Constitution of the U.S.F.A.V. and sundry by-laws as set out hereunder.

3. Membership is confined to two broad groups — an active and an associate group. A member is active if he has his own breathing unit. All associate members must have their own breathing units within twelve months of membership.

(Continued on page 28)



The Queensland boys with the 100 lb. 14 oz. cod are from left to right — Back row: Ron Cox, George Langley, Lyle Dav's, Ben Cropp; Front row: J. Reynolds, F. Kirkham.

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POCKET — only weighs 18 oz.



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Watch this square and see the numbers increase. They are a record of the number of lives saved (using this Belt) as from January 1, 1954.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPEARIES

The President of the U.S.F.A. of South Australia is John Mitchell.

An active spearman who graduated from line fishing in 1948, John spends almost as much time on the design of radical spearing mechanisms as on spearing.

Preferring the hand-spear on pan-fish, he has developed a combination rubber and spring gun for the medium sized ones, and a twin Lyle Davis rubber machine firing an 80 in. by 5/16 in. spear for tackling the big "blues" on his forthcoming annual trip to Western Australia.

He has speared an impressive variety of fish, and has more interest than most spearmen in the various species — no doubt stemming from his job as a zoologist at the South Australian Museum.

His enthusiastic interest in marine zoology has led to the encouragement of specimen collecting by skin divers, and as a result, several large and valuable collections have been donated to Australian research institutions. The West Australian Association has been particularly active, and its collection of fish now donated to the South Australian Museum now exceeds 200 species — several of which are new to science.

Still in his mid-twenties, John has many years of active participation ahead of him.



S.A. CHAMP.

1953-54

Open Champion of South Australia for 1953-54 is Jack Conquest, husky six footer who convincingly won the event by 101 points.

An enthusiastic committeeman, he prefers the imported spring guns for pan-fish spearing, and has designed his own multiple-rubber gun for the big 'uns.

Jack has also perfected a powder gun using a Winchester action, and is biding his time to find suitable quarry for the gun's terrific power

potential. His accuracy with a spear-gun is probably enhanced by his off-season pursuits of hunting and target shooting (he was awarded the Jubilee Oscar, and on the first occasion it was competed for, won the Lionel Bibley Cup for pistol shooting).

Jack prefers the out-of-the-way spots, and his Austin A90 and caravan really proved their worth on a recent trip to the Darwin waters.

Ably supported and encouraged by his wife, Peg — the State's best spearmaid — he is bringing son Tim up to follow in his flipper-steps.

ADVICE TO BEGINNERS

By W. S. HARTRICK, PRES. U.S.F.A.V.

Spearfishing is not an expensive sport.

But in the first flush of enthusiasm one is inclined to dash into a store and choose the most expensive gear available.

This is not always the most serviceable or the most efficient. On the other hand, some try to do it "on the cheap" and buy something that is practically useless. Ask the advice of an experienced hand and you won't go far wrong.

When you get your gear, look after it. Wash it in fresh water after use and dry it out thoroughly. Oil all working parts of your gun, and make sure your mask is stored so that it won't be distorted or the glass broken by having weight pressing upon it.

When the time comes to go fishing, try and find out beforehand something about the area to be fished, the tides and the currents.

But first practise in shallow water until you become accustomed to breathing through your snorkel, and feel quite at home with your flippers and gun.

With confidence in yourself and equipment, you can now head for deeper water and the big 'uns. But wait — it's safer and far more fun to take a mate with you; and you can save yourself unnecessary exhaustion by quickly making a float from an old inner tube, suspending a bag inside and towing it behind — a combination game-bag and life-buoy!

Once in the water, the key-note is stealth and alertness. Don't thrash around like a paddle steamer — the slightest reverberation under water magnifies countless times, and frightens the fish. Cruise quietly along, making sure your flippers don't break the surface, and be on the look-out for the cunningly camouflaged fish browsing in weed or lurking under a rocky ledge. In this way you can round a jutting reef and see more fish than you thought possible.

Experience will teach you how to spot most fish. You'll also learn what to take and what to leave alone. While messing around with a useless

ray you'll usually miss out on something worthwhile.

A word about the Port Jackson shark. He rarely grows more than
(Continued on page 32)

SABLON JOINS U.S.F.A.V.

International singing star, Jean Sablon, has become an honorary member of the U.S.F.A. of Victoria.

Sablon is appearing in the current musical hit "La Vie Parisienne" at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne.

An enthusiastic spearman, he described some of his underwater experiences during an exclusive interview with "Snorkel."

He has fished in the U.S.A., South America, and the south of France, where "the waters are the clearest in the world."

While swimming in South America, an octopus attacked his companion, a woman in a red bathing costume. They came through unscathed, but Sablon has since been told that octopi are attracted to red. Watch out girls!

Sablon says our groper is very similar to the overseas merou, which offers the best in underwater hunting. Self-contained breathing apparatus is now a common feature with most overseas clubs, but there are many, including Sablon, who still prefer the snorkel.

Sablon plans to go to Tahiti when he finishes his Australian tour.

"But I would like to see your Great Barrier Reef," he said. "I have a plan to lessen the worry of sharks. I shall put a rear vision mirror on my mask, and so see what is happening behind."

Profile —

DICK CHARLES

Bury Dick Charles — spearfisherman extraordinary — one of the founders of the sport in Australia, manufacturer of a unique safety belt, and a good bloke.

Founder and president of the U.S.F.A. of New South Wales, he made the very necessary move last year of leaving that Association to become the founder and president of the Underwater Spear Fishermen's Association of Australia.

His enthusiasm and unflagging efforts have done much for the sport. Our organisation is held in high respect by many public authorities, least of whom are the Fisheries and Games and the Police Department. It is a tribute to Dick that the once bitter antagonism between spearfishermen and amateur fishermen is rapidly abating.

Coupled with his presidential activities is his passionate zeal to make the sport safe for all. He has perfected a safety belt, marketed under his name, which is rapidly proving its worth and should be an essential item in every spearman's kit-bag.

His rugged looks and vitality belie his 53 years. His battered yachting cap — he got it when he joined St. George Motor Boat Club in 1927 — and jutting jaw are a familiar sight where spearmen gather.

It was this same cap which nearly caused an international situation at Adelaide early this year. Two Victorians — they shall be nameless — thought it a great lark to swipe Dirty Dick's cap. The ensuing racket when the loss was realised caused, we believe, the local citizens to think the Reds had started the invasion! Happily, Dick's cap was returned safely on the presentation night.

Born in England, Dick came to Australia with his parents in 1912. He was a ground engineer with the Australian Aircraft Engineering Co. after World War I, and barnstormed around the country in an Avro 504 giving air rides to country people. He raced in Sydney's first Aerial Derby, and still holds his ground engineer's ticket — the 15th licence issued.

Dick had one of really two close shaves while swinging the prop. of his aircraft in the Derby. Unused to the short stroke of the motor he fell across the front skids of the aircraft.

He lay there as the prop. blade sliced the air inches above his back. If he remained where he was he would be dragged along as the pilot taxied away for the take-off.

Luckily for Dick, the pilot was warned of his engineer's plight and stopped the motor.

His other escape from death happened while he was a youngster in England. He fell 15 feet from a lookout tower and was rushed to hospital with cerebral meningitis. Despite little hope for his recovery, Dick pulled through. Doctors have since said the illness left him with a particularly active brain.

Broke on and off during the depression, he managed to clinch a few property deals which helped to set him back on his feet.

In 1937 he made his first underwater gear — a spear from three shark hooks and a piece of cane, a mask from a piece of rubber tubing, and a heavy weight which was held in the left hand.

During the war, Dick was an instructor with N.E.S. rescue squads. It was then he invented and built the first cliff-top rescue apparatus.

His home in Hurstville, Sydney, holds a 10,000 gallon swimming pool and numerous bowls and tanks holding many multi-coloured tropical fish.

At the flick of a fin he stokes up his bomb, secures the caravan, and tootles off with his wife and twin 14-year-old sons to some peaceful spot by the briny.

Dick fought tooth and nail last year to successfully lift the spearfishing ban off Lord Howe Island. He is always on the spot to put the Association's case when the Chief Secretary's Department receives letters requesting bans of one sort or another.

To you, mate, we dips our lids.



DICK CHARLES, PRESIDENT U.S.F.A.

How to make —

A LIGHTWEIGHT FLOAT

By ALAN GAMBLE

In the design of a float there are three main considerations to be observed.

It must be strong, it must be light, and it must carry your weight.

A fourth concern to some people of course is it must be water-tight. But this will be merely a passing thought if care is taken during construction, and plenty of plastic wood or putty and paint is available.

The method of attacking this project is to first make your skeleton.

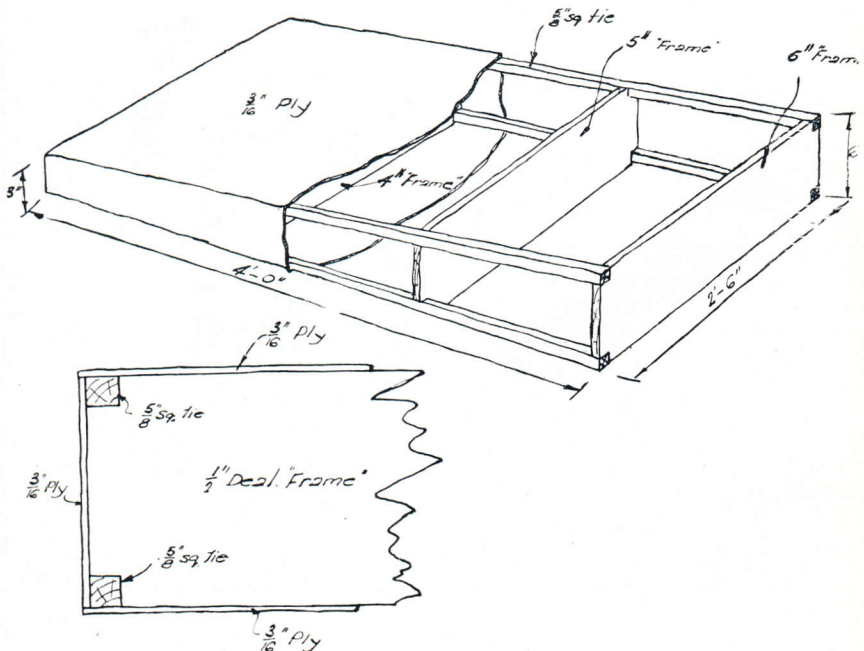
Using light deal (say $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick), make four "frames," 2'6" long by depths varying from 6" to 3", notching each corner $\frac{5}{8}$ " x $\frac{5}{8}$ " to house the $\frac{5}{8}$ " sq. oregon ties. Attach the ties (four of 4' length) to these "frames" with generous amounts of "Beetle" waterproof glue and a positioning nail per joint and allow to set about 20 minutes.

The rest is simple, as only the top, bottom and sides have to be cut out and glued to the skeleton. $\frac{3}{16}$ " weatherproof ply is ample — make sure the grain runs in the direction of the float — and can be glued to the skeleton using either brass screws ($\frac{3}{8}$ " 4g.) or light copper nails at about 4" centres to hold until the glue sets.

Fill all the holes, cracks, etc., with plastic wood or putty and paint generously with red lead.

In the finishing coats of paint the surface should be sprinkled with sand to give a textured finish for climbing

(Continued on page 26)





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New 50 cub. ft. GERMAN CYLINDER. Harness with quick-release and buoyancy pack.

Improved Reducer and Demand. Carrying Case, Pressure Gauge, and Fixed Spanner.

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OLD TYPE DEMAND VALVES	£10 0 0
Front Entry DIVING SUIT	£10 0 0
*CRESSI (Italian) OXYGEN UNIT	£41 10 0
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*DRAGER (De Luxe) OXYGEN UNIT	£125 0 0
ROBOT UNDERWATER CAMERA CASE ..	£28 12 6
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* Oxygen units will only be sold to qualified divers trained in the use of this equipment.

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Equipment can be hired for special uses and rates will be given by the Manager.

Filling cylinders	5/- ea.
Hire of cylinders	7/6 a day
Demurrage	10/- a week-end
	2/6 a day

SECOND-HAND EQUIPMENT

All second-hand equipment is guaranteed in first class condition and is excellent value. Make sure if you want diving equipment to contact us and write for our diving list.

**SECOND-HAND UNITS BOUGHT AND SOLD
A FULL RANGE OF SPARE PARTS IS AVAILABLE**

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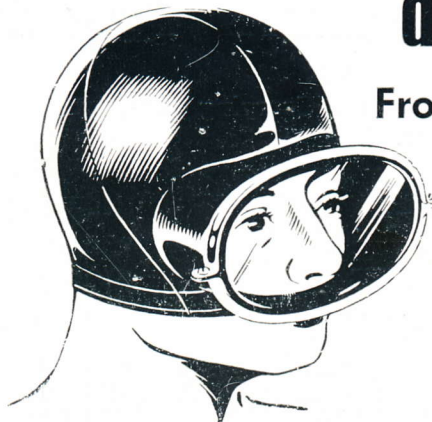
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Frogman HELMET

Acknowledged throughout
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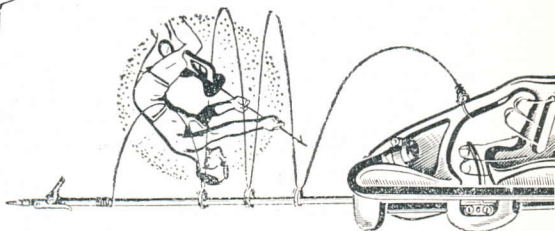


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This heavy Latex
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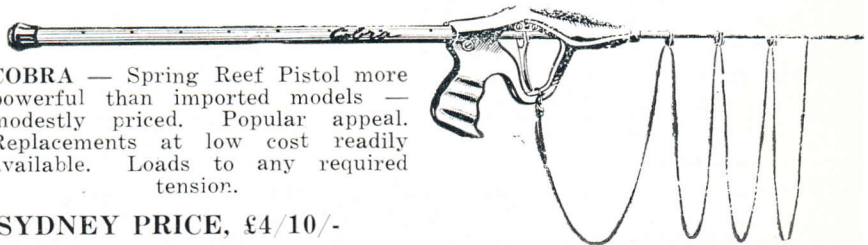


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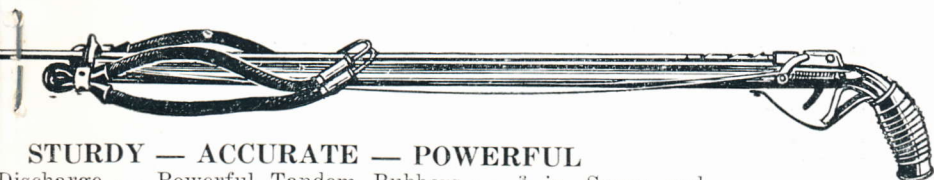
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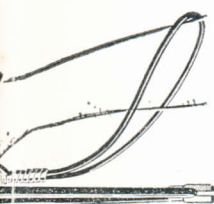
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STURDY — ACCURATE — POWERFUL

Discharge — Powerful Tandem Rubbers — 3/4 in. Spear and
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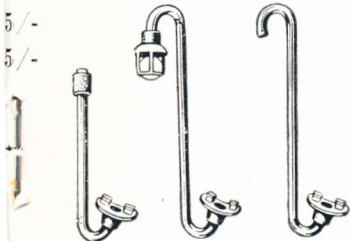
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J Model 12/-
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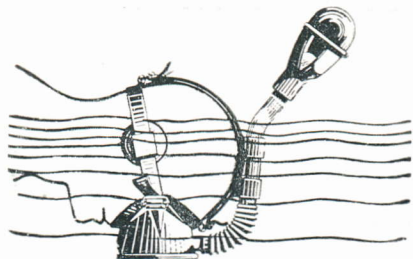
Definitely fits any face. Fitted with
 aircraft SAFETY "GLASS" — solid
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MECHANISMS	12 0
with long trigger	15 0
RUBBERS 9/16"	19 6
Tandem	39 0
5/8"	25 0
BARBS, Cone	8 3
Diamond	8 11
Stainless or hardened tool steel and larger barb wings	12 9
SPEARS, with trigger and wire slots	17 6
With heavy duty barb	25 0

From France comes this sensational new development . . .



THE
"MARINO"
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Swimming & Diving MASK

It's patented

DOUBLE CHECK VALVE

with a built-in breathing tube, makes "MARINO" the only sporting mask that permits carefree diving and swimming in any position.

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Whether you dive to the depths or splash at the edges, on sea or lake, the "MARINO" is the perfect aid to the advanced swimmer — beginner — diving novice — and the over-nervous. Its patent valve system ensures perfect water tightness. Being fitted with a diving compensator, the mask cannot collapse on your face.

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There are no separate breathing tubes to obstruct vision; there is no lip irritation, jaw fatigue, teeth strain or undue coldness. Adjustable ear pads save damage to ears by water.

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HOBART: A.D.C. Trading Co., 156 Elizabeth Street.

THE VICTORIAN PRESIDENT

President of the U.S.F.A. of Victoria is genial William Standish Hartrick.

His essential specifications are —
Age: Blushes when asked.

Height: Long enough to reach from his shoes at one end to his hat at the other.

Hair: Several. Believed to be fair.

Eyes: Two. Blue, somewhat blood-shot, either from dissipation or conjunctivitis.

Scars: Scores of them, said to be relics of boyhood days, when saltpetre was used to combat orchard pests.

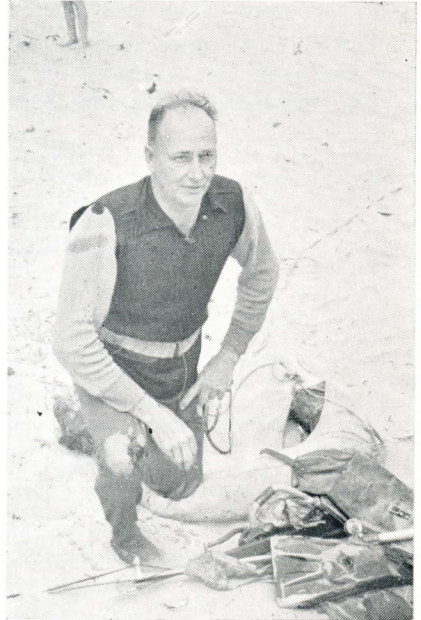
Hobbies: Swapping yarns, fishing. He has six children!! He has no known police record.

Bill was born in Melbourne some time ago. He was nearly expelled from school while in Grade 1 because he refused to let a woman doctor take down his particulars — or something.

He moved to Gippsland at the age of ten, where he grew webbed feet. Tried various jobs during the depression, and finally hired his services to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board in 1934. In 1938 he joined the 34th Fortress Company, R.A.E. (Militia).

When war broke out, Bill was called up to help man the searchlights in the Queenscliff fortress area. An injury put him on the reserve list, from which he transferred to a foot-slogging unit. After washing the C.O.'s car, and mowing the Adjutant's lawn, he got the job of Sar' Major of the Machine Gun Company.

Bill spent a lot of time frolicking around the tropics, but expressed disappointment at seeing nothing resembling Dotty Lamour. A rather frail creature, he was made B Class (keep it clean) and posted to an ammo. unit as R.S.M. When the war passed further north, the M. & M.T.B. claimed him, and after a lot of delay, an honourable discharge was somehow wrangled. Back to the Tramways, and after refusing the job of Chairman, he now draws Inspector's pay.



Beau Brummel Hartrick was his usual immaculate self at the First Aggregate round at Pt. Lonsdale.

When the U.S.F.A.V. held its inaugural meeting about April, 1951, Bill was there. A couple of unsuspecting chaps proposed him as Vice-President, and as no one else nominated, there it was.

When subscriptions were called for, Bill was in the front row toying with £1 that his long-suffering wife, Edna, had given him to pay a bill. The Sec. grabbed it and had a receipt written out before Bill woke up. Quite by accident, he now claims he was the first financial member of the U.S.F.A.V.

He is very immaculate in his appearance, and is known as the Beau Brummel of the Briny (see photo).

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

By BILL YOUNG — Part 2

Last month we discussed the main features of underwater photography, making especial mention of the 35 m.m. camera. Now we shall go on to the different types of films.

The underwater photographer uses the same type of film as he would on the surface. If he wants fine grain he uses Plus-X. If he desires speed he uses the faster emulsions such as Super-XX.

There are two general black and white emulsions in wide use today — orthochromatic, which is sensitive to blue and green light, and panchromatic, an emulsion sensitive to all colour in rough proportion to their sensitivity to the normal eye.

Black and white photographs taken through water generally require a blue elimination filter to get rid of some of the scattered light. Thus orthochromatic film will produce flat images underwater and require long exposures. The underwater photographer is generally satisfied with the normal panchromatic film typified by Plus-X and Super-XX. The average orthochromatic film is Verichrome and is widely used in cheap roll film cameras.

The type of colour film used in Australia is made by Kodak at the moment. It is corrected to achieve roughly the same colour balance as seen by the normal eye, although daylight type seems to be more lightly saturated in colour which results in a brighter picture. A little brightness is desirable under water as colours tend to be on the pastel shade.

The great drawback of colour film at the moment is its lack of speed, though recent developments by film companies hint at a new colour film with a speed equal to Super-XX.

Now don't get excited — it's not out yet, but is worth waiting for as it will open up complete new fields to the photographer.

Under the sea, one works in a complex and changeable medium, with difficult cold conditions, violent swaying of both camera and photographer, and the encumbrance of diving equipment.

The light over a water surface does not come only from the sun's disc, but also from cloud reflection. Any portion of sea surface will thus receive light coming at it from all angles, although the major portion on a clear day will come direct from the sun.

As the light strikes the air-water interface, some of it is reflected back, the remainder continuing down into the depths. When the sun drops lower, the amount reflected increases — although even at 10 degrees above the horizon three-quarters of the incident intensity passes below the surface. The totally overcast sky gives a uniform value of eight per cent. reflected light regardless of sun position.

Actual measurements substantiate that on rough days with a severe chop running, up to 20 or 30 per cent. of the incident intensity is lost in the first few feet of troubled or bubble-filled water. Since only 3 to 4 per cent. could be traced to reflection, the remainder of the loss must be due to an optically disturbed surface layer. On flat, calm days this effect disappears, and the only surface loss is the few per cent. due to surface reflection and scattering.

Underwater photographers should heed this as it shows that while reflection is not important to undersea exposures—except at low sun angles — the condition of the water may be. A photographer working at a given depth, and who had made his meter reading, must remember to take fresh readings if the wind on the surface changes or tidal movements cause a sharp chop to form on a previous smooth surface.

(Continued on page 27)

Spearfishing Books !!

	Price	Post
MODERN SPEARFISHING. A new 1954 book by Ivanovic	25/-	1/6
GUIDE TO SKINDIVING & UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING by M. L. Jones (U.S.A.) . .	17/6	1/6
TO HIDDEN DEPTHS. Capt. P. Tailliez	20/-	2/-
MEDITERRANEAN HUNTER. B. Gorsky	18/9	1/6
DANGER IS MY LIFE. Victor Berge	15/6	1/6
THE SILENT WORLD. Capt. Cousteau	22/6	2/-
HUNTING BIG FISH. Marcel Issy-Swartz . . .	18/9	1/6
DIVING TO ADVENTURE. Hans Haas	20/-	1/6
UNDER THE RED SEA. Hans Haas	20/-	1/6
THE UNDERSEA ADVENTURE. Phil. Dirole . .	22/6	1/6
THE PEARL SEEKERS. N. Bartlett	20/-	2/-
UNDERWATER CINEMATOGRAPHY. An American pamphlet	10/9	6d.
GUIDE TO UNDERWATER HUNTING. Simon Codrington	12/6	9d.
LADY WITH A SPEAR, by Eugene Clark . . .	15/6	1/3
4000 YEARS UNDER THE SEA — Excursions in Undersea Archæology by Phillipe Dirole . .	27/-	1/9
SHALLOW-WATER DIVING & SPEARFISHING by Schenk & Kendall. (Covers Helmet Diving, Mask Div- ing, Self-Contained Recirculating Diving Equipment, Self-Contained Throw-Away Equipment).	42/6	1/6
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY by Shenck & Kendall. (Chapters on: Optics and Photometry, Photographic Materials, Underwater Exposure (Natural Light), Underwater Exposure (Artificial Light), Camera Box Construction, Taking Underwater Pictures),	32/3	1/3
"SNORKEL" — Owing to the high popularity of this book, stocks have sold out for the present. Further supplies are due in January, and those interested are advised to place their order immediately.		
TREASURE DIVING HOLIDAYS — The adventures of a family under the sea on the Spanish Main. Many colour plates. Price 22/6, post 1/6.		

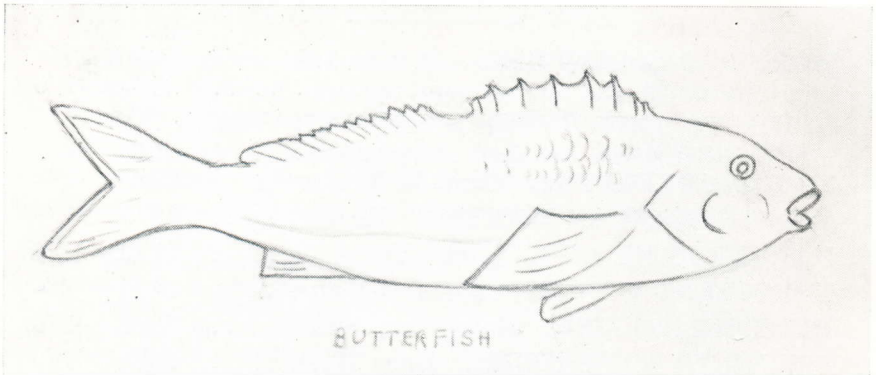
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FISH IDENTIFICATION



Family Cheilodactylidae. Scientific name is *Dactylophora nigricans* Rich. Known as the strong fish, or tillywurti in South Australia, and is the best known as the sea carp.

It is found in great numbers in South Australia and Victoria, and usually where there is a good supply of weed.

The average weight in Victoria is 4 to 5 lbs., the largest fish this season being a 7½ pounder taken at Mornington. Minimum length is 9 inches.

The flesh is inclined to be a bit soft but its texture can be improved with baking. There is a tendency for a weedy flavour if sweared over a weed bed.



Undersea Fascination THROUGH THE SCHOOL OF UNDERWATER DIVING AND SWIMMING

NEXT COURSE COMMENCES
JANUARY 24

The School operates from the Private Pool at the City Baths, and the complete Course is run over five weeks. Each Monday night you attend a lecture from 7.30 to 10 p.m. under the Honorary Instruction of Lieutenant-Commander Batterham. Many hours are spent in practical swimming with compressed air and oxygen units in the Pool on Wednesday or Friday nights. All swimming instruction is under the strict supervision of trained instructors, and graduates of the School are issued with a Certificate of Merit signed by Lieutenant-Commander Batterham.

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EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

23 Albany Crescent,
Oaklands, South Australia,
November 15, 1954.

Dear Don,

The U.S.F.A. of South Australia held its third Championship heat on Sunday, November 14. John Brook and John Morrison tied for first place with 46 points each, John Mitchell was third with 37 points, and Jim Dow fourth with 21 points.

Fishing area was unrestricted but even so a strong south-westerly resulted in only nine fish being speared, though several parties travelled up to 80 miles from the check-in point looking for clear water.

In the club it has been the policy of the senior members to advise the newer chaps most strongly against trailing blood and guts (fish) around in the water. Both John Brook and Jim Morrison learnt their lessons early.

Jim was spearing in deep water out from Port Lincoln and after a successful catch was heading into shore when a Bronze Whaler started circling him — then disappeared into the blue.

When he was just about into shore he was given considerable impetus when the Bronzie hit him fair in the back as it shot past. Jim still doesn't know whether it was poor aim or poor eyesight that affected the Noah.

John had speared a large dusky when he found that a nice sized Bronzie also had possessive ideas. However, he finally reached a convenient rock about 50 yards from shore with fish intact. As the shark was still in close attendance, he decided to get rid of his unwelcome companion and managed to sink a spear shagreen deep in the Bronzie.

After a short struggle the line snapped and the spear was deposited on the bottom some 15 yards from the rock.

Confident the shark had departed for parts unknown, John swam out for the spear, had just retrieved it when he noticed the Bronzie coming back with throttle well open. But

it was nowhere near fast enough to catch John, who according to on-lookers was finally stopped swimming by a convenient tree some 50 yards from the water's edge. Incidentally, the Bronzie got the dusky which John dropped.

Yours faithfully,
Dave Fordham, Editor,
"Oceanic Scroll."

8 Beacon Street,
Parkdale.
November 15, 1954.

Dear Don,

Enclosed find letter sent by two young club members. In view of the apathy of some other members toward the Christmas competition, I feel this would be worthy of publication.

Regards,
Frank Matthews,
Social Secretary.

And here is the letter:

C/o Waller Lodge,
169 Canterbury Road,
Canterbury.
November 3, 1954.

Dear Frank,

Please find enclosed £1, being for tickets sold for Christmas competition. Our work does not give us easy access to a post office, so hope you will excuse us for not enclosing a postal note.

We hoped to have the tickets forwarded earlier but have been away and didn't have the address handy.

Thanking you kindly for the privilege of helping the club.

Yours faithfully,
Brian Stagg, Bruce Lanisny.

58 Eirene Street,
Yarraville.
November 8, 1954

Dear Don,

In the October issue of "Snorkel" an article was printed which referred to the lack of Victorian entrants in the Australian competitions. It was mentioned that as New South Wales

(Continued on page 32)

SURVEY OF LATEST GEAR

Below is a market survey of what is currently being offered to underwater enthusiasts.

FLIPPERS —

Super Turnbull Flipper: Largest on market. Extremely powerful, but should be worn only by experienced spearmen. Price: £3.

Turnbull full-rubber sole: Affords protection of a non-skid rubber sole. Very useful for reef work. Price: £2.

GUNS —

Improved Super Sabre: A powerful silent and accurate pistol-grip metal gun with four "E" rubbers. Floats on discharge. Price: £7/18/-.

Sea Sport: A range of four spring guns each with a different power for different conditions. Very manoeuvrable and accurate, does not necessitate use of lead belt. Price: 84" model, 7/16" spear, £11/5/-; 72" model 7/16" spear, £11/5/-; 72" model, 3/8" spear, £10/15/-; 60" reef gun, 7/16" spear, £7/10/-.

Lyle Davis: Two sizes, metal pistol grip with 5/8" rubbers. Outstanding success in championships. Floats on discharge, though sometimes water leaks in past sealing corks. Price: £7/10/-.

German Barracuda CO2 Gun: A light, manoeuvrable and simply designed gun with a 1100 lb. p.s.i. pressure on release. Though these guns are perhaps the most powerful weapon on the Australian market, they are not popular as CO2 sparklets cost 10d. each. Price: £20/10/6.

Cobra and Bantam: The Cobra (spring) and Bantam (rubber) are both low-priced, close-quarter, small game guns. Both ideal for beginners, and the Cobra is a good weapon when fishing in rocky pools where there is little room to swing a longer gun. Price: Cobra, £4/15/-; Bantam, £3/3/-.

RUBBER SUITS —

Pirelli: A lightweight two-piece suit used exclusively by the R.A.A.F., American and Italian frogmen teams. Hand-made in soft, pliable rubber, reinforced in all wearing parts, fits neatly to the body. There is also a short suit which finishes at the tops of the legs and arms. Price: £18/10/-.

MASKS —

Sea-Sport: Strongly moulded in pure gum rubber featuring non-slip adjustable straps and toughened shock-proof glass. A very good face-fitting mask now being made in three different facial contours. The strap and toughened glass are the outstanding features. Price: 19/9 circular, 20/9 wide-vision triangular, 26/- circular with shock-proof glass.

The Marino: The "Rolls-Royce" in masks. Patented respirator fitted to top, enables breathing through nose. Design of ear muffs ensures equalisation of pressure and protects the ears. Valve completely effective in all positions underwater. A cheaper, simpler design is also on the market. Price, Marino: £6/15/-, Simple-scaph, 3/19/6.

Commando Helmet: Heavy latex hood covering hair and ears. Available in three sizes. Price, 30/-.

Turnbull: The Oval De Luxe and triangular Sea Raider are both fitted with safety toughened glass. The De Luxe model has built-in snorkel. Oval mask has comfortable soft lip around the edge. Price, Oval De Luxe: £1/4/6; triangular Sea Raider, 16/3; Oval with Snorkel, £1/16/9.

Cressi Medusa: Covers both mouth and nose, built-in snorkel on either side with cork float-type valves. Price: double snorkel, £3/19/-; single snorkel, £3/5/-.

Ostrica Uno-B: Single built-in snorkel, does not cover mouth, cork float-type valve. Price: £2/10/6.

Torpedo Riviera: Does not cover nose, should never need removing, but still keeps correct vision. A good mask for the experienced spearman. Price: 32/6.

SNORKELS —

"Ping-pong valve" modified version of the "S" bend model definitely adds to a more efficient cut-off if submerged vertically. Ball fragile unless well caged. Price: 13/11.

(Continued on page 27)

THE TIDES

High and low water times at Port Phillip Heads are listed below for the last half of December.

Dec.	High		Low	
	a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
20	6.53,	8.16	.20,	1.01
21	7.30,	9.14	1.04,	1.52
22	8.13,	10.13	2.06,	2.53
23	9.08,	11.10	3.28,	3.54
24	10.14,	—	4.42,	4.46
25	.01,	11.14	5.38,	5.31
26	.45,	12.06	6.28,	6.11
27	1.24,	12.53	7.13,	6.50
28	2.01,	1.37	7.54,	7.29
29	2.36,	2.21	8.32,	8.09
30	3.11,	3.07	9.08,	8.51
31	3.46,	3.56	9.42,	9.33

High and low water times at other places in Victoria can be found by subtracting from or adding to the time of the appropriate tide at Port Phillip Heads, as below:

Subtract for: Apollo Bay, 38 mins.; Cape Schank, 1 hr. 33 mins.; Flinders Jetty, 1 min.; Gabo Island, 3 hrs., 13 mins.; Glenelg Islands, 4 mins.; Lakes Entrance, 3 hrs., 25 mins.; Lorne, 35 mins.; Mallacoota Inlet, 3 hrs. 13 mins.; Snowy River Entrance, 3 hrs., 22 mins.

Add for: Anderson Inlet, 10 mins.; Barwon Heads, 16 mins.; Benison Channel, 1 hr., 14 mins.; Black Rock Breakwater, 3 hrs., 2 mins.; Bouchier Channel, 1 hr., 28 mins.; Bowen Wharf, 1 hr., 9 mins.; Corner Inlet Entrance, 25 mins.; Cowes Jetty, 28 mins.; Dromana Jetty, 2 hrs., 33 mins.; Frankston Jetty, 3 hrs., 7 mins.; Geelong Wharves, 3 hrs., 32 mins.; Hastings Jetty, 1 hr., 6 mins.; Hopetown Channel, 3 hrs., 21 mins.; Indented Head, 2 hrs., 47 mins.; Inverloch, 20 mins.; Melbourne Wharves, 3 hrs., 13 mins.; Mornington Jetty, 2 hrs., 42 mins.; Newhaven Jetty, 1 hr., 3 mins.; Point Nepean Jetty, 9 mins.; Port Albert Entrance, 10 mins.; Port Albert Wharf, 1 hr.; Portarlington Jetty, 2 hrs., 50 mins.; Port Campbell, 25 mins.; Port Fairy, 59 mins.; Portsea Jetty, 29 mins.; Queenscliff Jetty, 3 mins.; Rabbit Island, 25 mins.; Refuge Cove, 16 mins.; Rutherford Creek, 1 hr., 19 mins.; St. Leonard's Jetty, 2 hrs., 44 mins.; Sorrento Jetty, 2 hrs., 11 mins.; South Channel Pile Light, 3 hrs., 18 mins.; Spit Point, 1 hr., 15 mins.; Stony Point Jetty, 39 mins.; Swan Island Dock, 1 hr., 59 mins.; Tooradin, 1 hr., 23 mins.; Toora Jetty, 1 hr., 5 mins.; Waratah Bay, 13 mins.; Warrnambool, 1 hr., 4 mins.; Welshpool Jetty, 1 hr., 28 mins.; West Channel Pile Light, 2 hrs., 37 mins.; Williamstown, 2 hrs., 58 mins.

For example, high tide at Queenscliff Jetty on December 31, will occur at 3.49 a.m. and 3.59 p.m. (Head's times, plus three minute variation).

N.S.W. NOTES

The U.S.F.A. of New South Wales held its second Championship heat at Malabar on November 7.

Of the 46 competitors who signed on, 16 entered fish. A total of 46 fish were weighed in, their aggregate weight being 296 lbs. 2 oz. The average weight per fish was 6½ lbs. The largest fish weighed 27½ lbs. and was caught by Dave Rawlings.

Placings were: 1st Dave Rawlings, 169 pts.; 2nd W. Patching, 65 pts.; 3rd M. Fraser, 57 pts.

The first 25 at the end of three heats will contest the final, with winners from other State clubs, at La Perouse on December 5.

AUSTRALIAN RECORDS

The following table consists of current records for fish speared in Australia.

Bream	5 lbs. 5½ ozs.
Brown Spotted Cod	45 lbs.
Cod	100 lbs. 14 ozs.
Drummer (Black)	12 lbs. 4 ozs.
Drummer (Silver)	25 lbs. 3 ozs.
Flathead	16 lbs. 2 ozs.
Groper	77 lbs.
Kingfish	70 lbs.
Luderick	6½ lbs.
Mackerel	36 lbs. 9 ozs.
Morwong	24 lbs.
Mullet	5 lbs. 15 ozs.
Mulloway	74 lbs.
Parrotfish	31 lbs.
Samson Fish	40 lbs.
Snapper	13 lbs. 9 ozs.
Sweetlip	16 lbs. 2 ozs.
Turrum	28 lbs.
Whiting	2 lbs. 9 ozs.

PERSONAL PAR

We've found something tougher than Stan Lewis' feet. A woman, who for obvious reasons will wish to remain anonymous, and who reeks of the greenbacks, was asked to buy a 6d. ticket in the Christmas competition. She replied: "You buy a ticket, and if it wins a prize, I'll give you 3d. and we'll go halves."

SOCIAL OUTING

Despite bad weather conditions, about 40 keen members rolled up for the social outing at Mornington on November 7, hoping for the best and scoring the worst.

The Point Cook trip was cancelled because many of the good reefs there had been blocked off with wire fences and gates, and mud from the Werribee River had discoloured the water.

Only four fish were speared on the day. The best was a 7½ lb. butterfish taken by Bill Sylvester of Black Rock — the largest taken this season.

The enthusiasm of everyone was a good indication that Victoria will be hard to beat in the Australian Championships at Queenscliff.

At one stage, however, it looked like all the old soaks — sorry — salts would never leave the fire, and fishy stories waxed back and forth for many hours.

The new system of booking in advance for bus seats proved its worth — a very necessary precaution against such bleak, rainy days.

Outings such as these are not without their lighter moments. The sight of many Robin Hoods and gaily-clad clowns skating and slithering down muddy cliff-sides was too much for us. We burst our seal-skins laughing.

LIGHTWEIGHT FLOAT

(From page 14)

aboard purposes. Nothing to it, it's light — about 10-15 lbs., it's amply strong and due to the tapered shape it will carry your weight — legs dangling over the thick end.

If you want more than just a float you might —

- (a) build a "tackle" compartment with a hinged lid into the centre bay, or
- (b) build a "device" for propelling it like that other silly sod did and drown yourself every time you take it for a run.

XMAS CONTEST

Results of the Christmas competition, which was announced during a picture night at the Y.M.C.A. on December 2, were:

No. 9255, J. Cumberland, a hamper worth £25; No. 18935, NO NAME, an electric iron; No. 7026, D. Coulson, ladies' cardigan; No. 4142, P. Coutts, (free ticket), a dozen beer; No. 21931, 267 Glenhuntingly Depot, a tin of biscuits; No. 9262, B. Cumberland, six cups and saucers; No. 220, D. Simmet, bottle of brandy; No. 9990, F. Campbell, Christmas cake; No. 41, K. Baylis, pair of nylons; No. 4746, R. Sheridan, six beer; No. 12035, Miss O'Loughlin, 100 cigarettes; No. 2927, Mrs. McEwan, six tins of fruit; No. 5715, F. Angwin, two bottles of wine; No. 15588, Reichelt, Christmas cake; No. 8946, D. Roberts, tin of shortbread; No. 4405, Miss G. Hosking, six tins of fruit; No. 14631, Miss F. Nelson, six bottles of beer; No. 10578, W. Young, pair of nylons; No. 22327, A. Gamble, 100 cigarettes; No. 23302, 4504, High Street Depot, two bottles of wine.

SPOT ADS.

WANTED TO SELL. English Essjee aqualung, complete with wooden case, barely used, in excellent condition, £49/10/-. R. Wallace Mitchell Pty. Ltd., 70 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.
* * * *

WANTED TO SELL. A American Front Entry Diving Suits covering whole body, lace-up boots, rubberised fabric, suitable for hard work. £10. R. Wallace Mitchell Pty. Ltd., 70 Little Lonsdale St., Melbourne.
* * * *

WANTED TO SELL. Second-hand PORPOISE old model, guaranteed excellent condition, complete with case, pressure gauge, £48/10/-. R. Wallace Mitchell Pty. Ltd., 70 Little Lonsdale St., Melbourne.

PHOTOGRAPHY

(From page 20)

Summing up the natural exposure of black and white film, we have —

1. If the background haze is blue or green, use a blue elimination filter, being sure to make the exposure meter reading with a filter placed over the photo cell.

2. Where enough light is present for an exposure in turbid water, a yellow filter may be tried to cut a few feet further into the murk.

3. When in very shallow water with a bright sun and no cloud, try a polarizing filter, which must be properly aligned.

4. Use full panchromatic film. Use published daylight indices for the film, plus the meter reading. If possible, make a series of test shots to check exposures, distance, effect of haze, and accuracy of view finder.

Next month Bill Young will conclude his hints on underwater photography with an article on the water-proofing of the camera and the exposure meter.

MARKET SURVEY

(From page 24)

A French version of the above fits straight down the centre of the mask. Price: 32/6.

Heinke: A heavy-duty, full-length rubber suit, lined with stockinette for extra warmth. Can be easily patched with a bicycle tube repair kit. Light, soft sealing rubber around neck, wrists and ankles. Price: £25.

Torpedo Aqua-Suit or Vest: The suit is of very lightweight gum rubber and waterproofs all but the arms.

The vest is a lightweight version of the trusty sealskin. Price: Suit, £8/14/9; Vest, £2/19/11; Aqua-caps, 16/9.

MINIMUM SIZES

The minimum sizes for most fish found in Victorian waters are listed below.

Our aim is the conservation of fish — so please don't spear them unless they are 25 per cent. or more longer than the minimum size.

Bass (Gippsland Perch)	10 ins.
Blackfish	10 ins.
Bream	10½ ins.
Butterfish	9 ins.
Callop (Golden Perch or Yellow-belly)	11 ins.
Crayfish	4½ ins.
Flathead	10 ins.
Flounder	9 ins.
Garfish (River and Sea)	8 ins.
Ling	13 ins.
Luderick	8½ ins.
Mullet, Flat Tail	8½ ins.
Mullet, Yellow Eye	9½ ins.
Mullet, Sea (Poddy)	10 ins.
Murray Cod	18 ins.
Perch, Macquarie	10 ins.
Perch, Silver (Grunter)	10 ins.
Pike, Longfin	14 ins.
Quinnat Salmon	15 ins.
Rock Cod	8½ ins.
Ruff (Roughy)	7 ins.
Salmon, Australian (Salmon Trout)	8 ins.

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EXPLORERS' CLUB

(From page 8)

4. A nominal fee be imposed to cover sundry administrative expenses.

5. All breathing units must be of an approved type. All oxygen re-breathing units must conform to Admiralty specifications.

6. Safety principles and signals of diving to be strictly adhered to.

The Diving Safety Rules adopted are:

1. All divers to be medically fit.
2. All equipment to be tested before use.
3. Cylinders must be tested every two years.
4. Divers must not interfere with equipment without consent of owner.
5. All members must obey the orders of the Captain of the Day on launch outings.
6. All diving principles and practice to be strictly adhered to.
7. Common sense to be exercised at all times.

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MAILBAG

(From page 23)

has a ban on crays, our crays could become competition winners.

I would like to mention that a couple of Williamstown bods have won the annual prize for two years in Outdoors and Fishing. And what's more, they were won with a plain ordinary buttery.

The bods in question are Geoff. Kirk and Robin Warby — both club members. They won Section H77 in 1952 with a 5¼ pounder, and again last year with a 5¼ pounder.

They naturally carried off the monthly award — a badge that some of you saw Robin sporting at the opening at Rickett's Point.

The secret of their success was due to them being juniors (under 16). They were virtually the only contestants.

So how about the rest of you juniors taking the prize off Geoff. and Robin this year, and at the same time keeping it in Victoria?

Regards,

John Lucas.

BEGINNERS

(From page 11)

four to five feet long, and is completely inoffensive.

Despite what people may say, he is not as good eating as the more delicate morsels swimming around the Bay. Yet some youngsters seem to think it makes them big men to spear a Port Jackson and proudly show it to an admiring girl friend. If she only knew!

Don't take foolish risks. The Committee has laid down a Safety Code for the protection of all. Never load before going into the water, and always face seawards away from others when you do so. Unload in the same manner before leaving the water.

Don't be afraid to ask advice from an old stager. All you have to use is common sense.

Last, but by no means least, remember the more you put into the club, the more you will get out of it.

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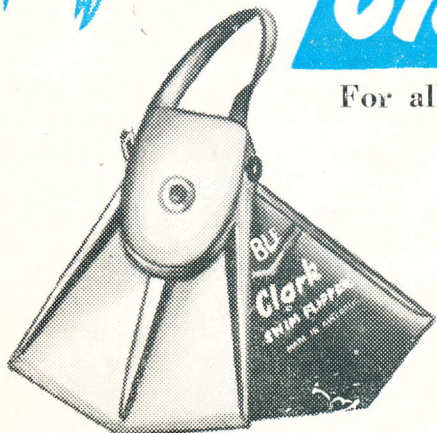
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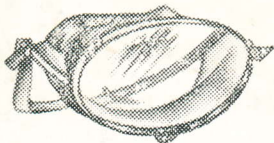
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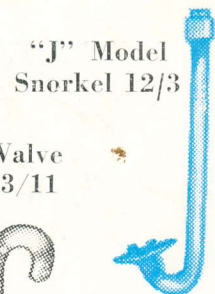
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