

SWIMMING

Surfing Carnivals

(By "Plunge")

Before Norman Ross boarded the train for Brisbane on Wednesday night he intimated to the mayor (Alderman R. Gibson) and Mr. Vesper (hon. secretary of the N.D.A.S.A.) that he would endeavor to make another appearance at the Newcastle Ocean Baths before leaving Australia.

This news will be welcomed by the many thousands who were unable, owing to the inclemency of weather, to see the world's champion establishing a new Australian record for the 300 yards on Tuesday night. Mr. Ross's idea is to get more of our swimmers conversant with his kickstroke. During his stay in Sydney he paid special attention to the youthful Keith Kirkland, who is regarded as Australia's coming champion.

The Newcastle public can rest assured that everything possible will be done to meet Mr. Ross's wishes, and to make it an afternoon carnival. More time is now at his disposal, the New Zealand visit having been cut out.

When Norman Ross toed the mark with the five other metropolitan competitors in the 300 yards International Invitation Scratch Race, some 1700 people were present, whilst a good many assembled on "Scotch Hill" to catch a glimpse of the world's champion putting behind the "three hundred" in the fast time of 3.31 1.5 secs. Quite a thousand or more people must have returned homewards owing to the thunderstorm at eight o'clock. Unfortunately swimming carnivals and thunderstorms don't agree, as on no less than three of the big night carnivals held at the ocean baths, a thunderstorm has interfered with the attendance. Happily the storm was only of about twenty minutes' duration, and the whole of the events were run smartly and up to programme time.

To say that Mr. Ross created a very favorable impression with his clean, powerful stroke and kick is in no way over-flattering. Keenly fought-out finishes in all the events must have been a source of gratification to the hon. handicappers, Messrs. P. Johnson, O. E. T. Read and A. E. Vesper. In manipulating the megaphone, Mr. Joe Palmer was a power of help in conveying to the spectators all the information required, which is so essential at a swimming carnival, when no colors are worn by competitors.

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One disadvantage commented upon by visiting swimmers was that no "take off" diving platform is provided at either end or sides of the baths. In addition to it being an advantage in starting, it also serves as a guide to the swimmer to judge his distance better when finishing a race. The cost would not be great, and it is to be hoped the city council will consider this much required addition.

During his Queensland tour, Norman Ross will swim at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Maryborough, afterwards returning to Melbourne and Adelaide

to compete in Australasian championships.

"My only regret is that my stay in Newcastle is not a week instead of 36 hours," remarked Ross before leaving for Brisbane. He is greatly impressed with the city and district with what little he did see. The courtesy paid by his worship the mayor (Alderman Gibson), officials of the Northern District Amateur Swimming Association, and the Newcastle Surf Club, were deeply appreciated by him.

Waimsey Dissatisfied

The ex-northern district 100 yards champion is not satisfied with his showing in the country and northern district championships, and has signified his willingness to make a scratch match with W. Readwin over the "hundred." Perhaps one of the clubs may take the matter up as it would be a good draw at the baths.

To-morrow's Carnivals

There is every indication of the surf and swimming carnivals to-morrow afternoon on the Newcastle beach and in the evening at the ocean baths being big successes. Additional interest is being created in the first-named carnival, as the first round of the Northern District Rescue and Resuscitation championship will be commenced. Teams are entered from Newcastle, Cook's Hill, Stockton and Merewether. Unfortunately Red Head Club has not been able to get a team sufficiently proficient to enter either R. and R. or alarm reel events. The evening continental should prove equally as interesting. No less than six clubs will hold handicaps, and give novelty and diving displays. The proceeds of the carnival will be devoted to the Newcastle Hospital and Benevolent Day Fund and Tom Dover testimonial.

Manly and Freshwater

To-night week will see an exodus of local surfing aspirants to the metropolis, where they will participate in two of the biggest carnivals promoted south of Newcastle viz. Manly

in two of the biggest carnivals promoted south of Newcastle, viz., Manly and Freshwater, on Saturday afternoon, January 24, and Anniversary Day, January 26, respectively. Newcastle, Cook's Hill and Stockton Clubs will be well represented. Tomorrow's carnival will be a "pipe opener" for competitors.

Shark and Patrol Lookout

After a delay of nearly three months this work was put in hand yesterday, and should be ready within a day or two. The pole is 30 feet high from the level of the rocks, and will be equipped with a "crow's nest" and alarm bell. During week-ends and holidays it will be manned by patrol members of the Newcastle Surf Club. It is a coincidence that it should be erected exactly twelve months to-day since Doug Arkell met with his misfortune.

Future Events

The next two local carnivals listed after to-morrow are:

Stockton, Saturday, January 31.

Newcastle, Saturday, February 14.

Cook's Hill Swimmers

The Cook's Hill Surf Swimming Club held a 50 yards handicap at the ocean baths last Wednesday night, in

conjunction with the point score competition. There was a large attendance. Thirty-eight competitors faced the starter, and the five heats were disposed of in quick time. Messrs. Ted. Purkeas and Fred Markham acted as judges, Mr. Alf Bailey as handicapper and Mr. Tom Walsham as starter. The following are the results:—

First heat: C. Ryan 20sec 1, Claude Ward 8sec 2; second heat, A. Davis 6sec 1, J. King 7sec 2; third heat, Ken. Mitchell 8 sec. 1, C. R. Ward 2sec 2; fourth heat, Alf. Warland, 12sec 1, J. Williamson 5sec 2; fifth heat, F. Neville 6sec 1, W. Fitzgerald 15sec 2; final, C. Ryan, 20sec 1, W. Fitzgerald 15sec 2, A. Davis 6sec 3. Time, 39 2/5.

The Cook's Hill Surf Swimming Club will hold a 50 yards handicap at the ocean baths on Saturday night, the "Fred Markham" Handicap, in connection with the Tom Dover Testimonial Fund. This handicap will also be swum in conjunction with the point score competition. The following starts have been allotted by the handicappers, Messrs. Tom. Walsham and Alf. Bailey:—R. Giles, scr., A. Giles 1sec, C. R. Ward 2, G. Player 3, S. Wade, C. Bevege, W. Schrader 4, A. Davis, F. Neville, J. Williamson and H. M'Closky 5, T. Burns 6, F. Meighan, J. King and K. Mitchell 7, Claude Ward, R. Land, Percy Shepherd and P. Scully 8, A. Weir, L. S. Parnell, I. Mills, H. Wooding, J. Brown and W.

P. Scully 8, A. Weir, L. S. Parnell, I. Mills, H. Wooding, J. Brown and W. M'Closky 9, N. W. Davies, H. Boudle, K. Lindsay, J. Meighan and R. Leayr 10, A. Warland 11, W. Fitzgerald, J. Stewart 12, R. Dunn, A. Evans, W. Owen, J. Neville and Leslie Jones 13, C. Ryan 14, R. G. Stewart 15, C. Brown 17, C. Sherriff and J. E. Jones 18, Fred Lloyd and M. Gilbert 20. All competitors are required to be in attendance at the baths at 7.30 p.m.

Newcastle Surf League

Harold Bay still leads by one point from George Preston and Bert Fawcett (32 each). Norman Taylor is a close fourth with 31½ points. In conjunction with the Tom Dover carnival, a 50 yards "D. L. Thalberg" handicap will be contested.

Surf League Handicaps

The following starts have been allotted by the Newcastle Surf League Swimming Club's handicapper (Mr. J. Meagher) for the 50yds. handicap on Saturday night, for trophy donated by Mr. D. L. Thalberg and the A. Peate and R. Sutherland point-score competition: J. Preston scr., H. Fawcett scr., N. Taylor 1sec., P. Montgomery 2, R. Robertson, R. Griffiths, W. Hopkins, H. Bay, R. Sutherland, and G. Gordon 3; W. Harris, H. Cox, W. Armitage, R. M'Lean, G. Preston, A. Gallagher and W. Lahiff 4; A. Sutherland, & J. McDonald 5; H. Brey, F. Wilkie and K. Morris, 7; A. M'Leod, F. Maki, H. Berry, F. Starks, A. Stewart, and M. Frazer 8; R. McDonald and T. Madden, 10; E. McDonald 11; G. Blight, P. Sutcliffe, and S. M'Leod 12; K. Watt 13. New members handicapped at shed.

At last night's meeting of the Merewether Council a letter was received from the Junction Methodist Church asking for the use of the Federal Park for a carnival on February 7. Permission was granted.

Jack Cole is to meet Bill Brodie, the South Coast middleweight, next month.

Jack Humphries will meet Billy Yates, and Fred Brock will fight the winner.