

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Artefact from the DUNBAR wreck site

Date

before 1857

Medium

Copper, metal

Name

Artefact remnant

History

Both Ron Taylor and Valerie Taylor (née Heighes) were pioneers in Australian skin diving. Ron took up the sport in 1952 and Valerie in 1956; they met as members of St

George Spearfishing Club in Sydney and were married in 1963. At this period there was little awareness of marine conservation and both Ron and Valerie excelled at the sport of competitive spearfishing. Valerie won the Ladies National Spearfishing Championships three years in a row in the early 1960s, and Ron took out the World Spearfishing Championships in Tahiti in 1965. The Taylors' underwater interests grew to encompass scuba diving and underwater photography. Ron built the first of many underwater housings to take land cameras beneath the sea in 1953. When television came to Australia in 1956 he saw the potential for making underwater news stories and with the help of a friend, who lent him a Bell & Howell 16 mm movie camera, Ron built an acrylic housing for the camera and started selling underwater footage to television and to the cinema newsreel producer Movietone News.