

Top Aussie iron men like aprons

THE northern beaches was the scene of yet another world record-setting event this month when 14 divers broke the Underwater Ironing world record.

Armed with ironing boards, electric irons and rumpled clothing, the 14 divers plunged 27m to the sea bed off Palm Beach and flattened the record of five divers set last year.

The event, organised by Dive Oz and hosted by Atlantis Divers of Palm Beach, attracted the cream of Sydney's underwater ironing brigade.

Underwater ironing was pioneered in Germany about 25 years ago but Australian divers have dominated the sport for many years.

Atlantis Divers owner Paul Errington said conditions for competitors were tough on the day, with a strong surge which kept knocking over the ironing boards during the event.

He said the better-prepared of the underwater iron men wore aprons they had pinched from their mums but denied this constituted cross-dressing.

He also said the poor visibility at the dive site allowed some of the iron men to get away with poorly defined creases.

"There was no prize for the world record - it was all just for the fun of it," he said.

