

FATHOMS

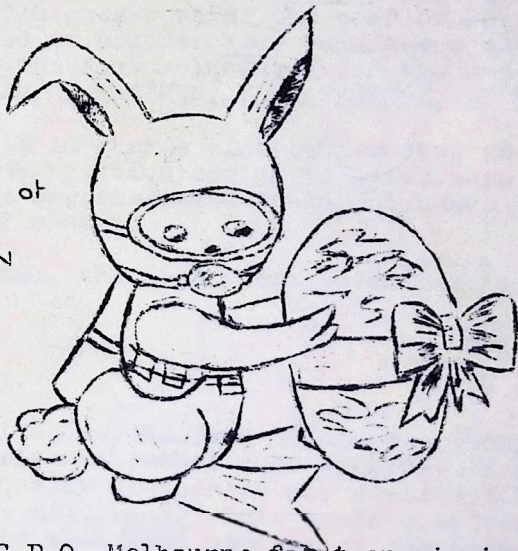
VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

----- NEWS LETTER

APRIL, 1965

PRICE 3d.

"See you at
GREEN
CAPE"



Registered at G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission per post
as a periodical.

GENERAL MEETING:

The next General Meeting will be held at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, City at 8.p.m. on Friday 9th April.

The reason for the alteration of night being that the 3rd Friday of the month falls on Good Friday.

SUPPER:

As everyone knows, we have supper after each meeting and the charge of 2/6 goes towards the cost of the rooms. It has been decided to ask for four volunteers each meeting to bring supper. The four volunteers for the next meeting are:-
J. NOONAN, L. NEWMAN, I. DAVENPORT, B. HEATHER.

Jan Watson is in charge of arrangements, so please help her and the Club by volunteering to bring supper at least one night. If this happened, you would only have to bring supper one night in 12 months.

Help us to help the Club. One volunteer is worth ten pressed men.

OUTINGS: Past.

The last outing was to Cape Schank on Sunday 21st March. Five divers arrived, (rather poor show wasn't it), by 11 a.m. but owing to squally weather it was decided to investigate a beach about one mile away. This beach disclosed some good diving spots and with good weather at the helm, would prove excellent for scuba diving.

Since weather conditions were unsuitable for diving at Cape Schank the divers adjourned to Morningson Pier where several "valuable" articles were retrieved. An enjoyable day was had by all.

OUTINGS: Future

Sunday 4th April - Cape Woolamai - Boat Trip.

Meeting place - San Remo Fishing Co-operative -
- 11 a.m. -

SOCIAL: Car Rally - Sunday April 25th.

The Car Rally is to start from the parking area opposite the Melbourne Zoo. The first car will start at 9.30 a.m. so be early. The latest anyone will be at the start is 11 a.m. From the finish of the Rally we will go to Twin Lakes for a barbeque lunch.

If you are going on the Car Rally and intend continuing on to Twin Lakes afterwards, please ring Brian Heather, 45 5505 on or before 20th April, as a hut is to be booked for the barbeque.

Bring your own food, wood and barbeques are provided. Entry fee in the Car Rally is 10/- per car and the fee to enter Twin Lakes is 5/- per person. There is a prize for the winning car.

This Rally is not just for members, if you have friends who would like to join in the fun ask them along, the more the merrier.

This outing is to help YOUR CLUB so do your bit and join in the fun.

GREEN CAPE ... EASTER TRIP

As Green Cape is about 370 miles from Melbourne, requiring up to 10 hours of solid driving, particularly with the last sections over rough road, alive with wild life, the Committee has arranged

with the Davenports to use their property at Lakes Entrance as a "Halfway Station" for those travelling on Thursday night.

Frank Coustley and Max Davenport will be leaving early Thursday, to erect a tent at Lakes Entrance for those people needing temporary sleeping accommodation. (Directions at back of Newsletter) - page 7.

A community breakfast will be arranged so an early start can be made to Batangabee.

Anyone requiring transport or camping accommodation at Green Cape is asked to contact Frank Coustley before Friday 9th April, 28 3940. Two or three tents will be made available as sleeping accommodation.

As Green Cape has a fair share of ticks (as well as fish,) everyone sleeping in tents must use stretchers and not attempt to sleep on the ground.

Compressed air will be available at Batangabee at approximately 10/- per lung, from Mr Brian Coffey of the Gippsland Lakes Aquanauts.

For further details, including a map of the Green Cape area, see last months Newsletter.

All those people intending to go on the Easter Trip are requested to attend the next General Meeting for the final details.

RESEARCH DIVISION.

The next Research Division Meeting will be held at Scots Hall at 6.30 p.m. prior to the monthly meeting of the Club.

Agenda: Business reports and a short lecture on methods of collection, classification and methods of study of marine specimens.

The R.D. is open to ALL Club members, so come along and bring with you, any interesting (or smelly) specimens you have picked up lately.

ORIGIN OF THE EARTH AND LIFE

Modern theories of the origin of the earth incline to the view that the earth was formed from an accumulation of Cosmic "Dust" swept together in space by attractive forces of the Universe.

Other theories account for the Earth's origin as a piece of molten matter torn from the Sun by a passing star.

The recent information gathered by Ranger 2, Moon Shot, will probably throw much light on this problem.

Whatever its ultimate origin the Earth was formed in the order of 4,500,000,000 years ago.

This figure has been obtained with reasonable accuracy, by the calculation of the time taken for natural radioactive decay of Uranium occurring in the oldest known rocks.

Some time after its formation materials of the new Earth began to coalesce. Gasses were squeezed out of the condensing matter to form the rudimentary atmosphere. It is probable that the composition of the atmosphere then was quite different from our present atmosphere of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

Quantities of free hydrogen reacted at the high prevailing temperature with oxygen to form water vapour which gradually accumulated, at a certain critical point condensing to rain, which fell on the fiery Earth to immediately evaporate again back to the atmosphere as steam. This cycle must have been repeated as a single deluge, lasting thousands, perhaps millions of years.

At last the Earth became sufficiently cool for the water to collect in depressions, forming the earliest seas.

Another vast period of time, perhaps 2,500,000,000 years elapsed, the Earth consisting of barren rocks and lifeless seas. Then, perhaps, in some quiet bay, in the warm waters, molecules of amino acids formed a floating scum; somehow these molecules aggregated once more to form the basis of all life - protein.

Eventually, these sub-microscopic particles probably very similar to viruses, somehow found the ability to reproduce themselves and thus life began in the oceans of the Earth.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Dr. J.W. Valentine has recently published the results of his work at Port Fairy. In his introduction he has recorded his appreciation of the help the Research Division gave him, (in the genus "Valentinus portfairiensis").

SMUGGLERS:

Cunning smugglers were among the people who sailed to and fro near Phillip Island in the 1870's. The bay had some features which were almost an invitation to these thorough going, free traders, and besides it was conveniently close to Melbourne. They played one clever trick that completely puzzled the police, who never caught up to it until years later.

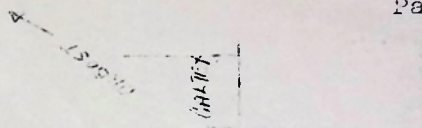
Quantities of raw spirits were continually run ashore on dark nights at times when not a vessel had entered the bay. Finally, a certain small Schooner changed hands and was taken to Melbourne for repairs. Here the Shipwrights discovered among her fittings a remarkably fine distilling plant.

WRECKS AROUND PHILLIP ISLAND:

The "Centurion" - This boat was built in 1900 of ironbark, at Sydney for a Geelong yachtsman named McCaughan. He used her for a pleasure cruise in the Pacific and on returning had her fitted as a crayfish boat, but found her unsuitable for this. He sold her and the new owner had the wells removed, and used her as a coastal trader, and, for a time she carried timber from Apollo Bay. Sold again, this time to the Lime Company at Walkerville, Cape Liptrap she met disaster in 1913 through combustion of a cargo of lime. The crew beached her in order to save their lives and she rapidly burned down to the water line. The remains can now be seen just near the Phillip Island Bridge.

Map Surrounding Area
Hickson's Point

NOTE: MARINE'S PLEASE
LIMIT YOUR NOISE
TO 40 DB(A) @ 100 FT



HICKSON
WILL BE AT
THIS POINT
(V.S. 86)

MAIN SURVEY
LINE

LINE

Point of view
from Hickson's Point
to the survey line

4. DUNE'S CURVE

Survey Line

