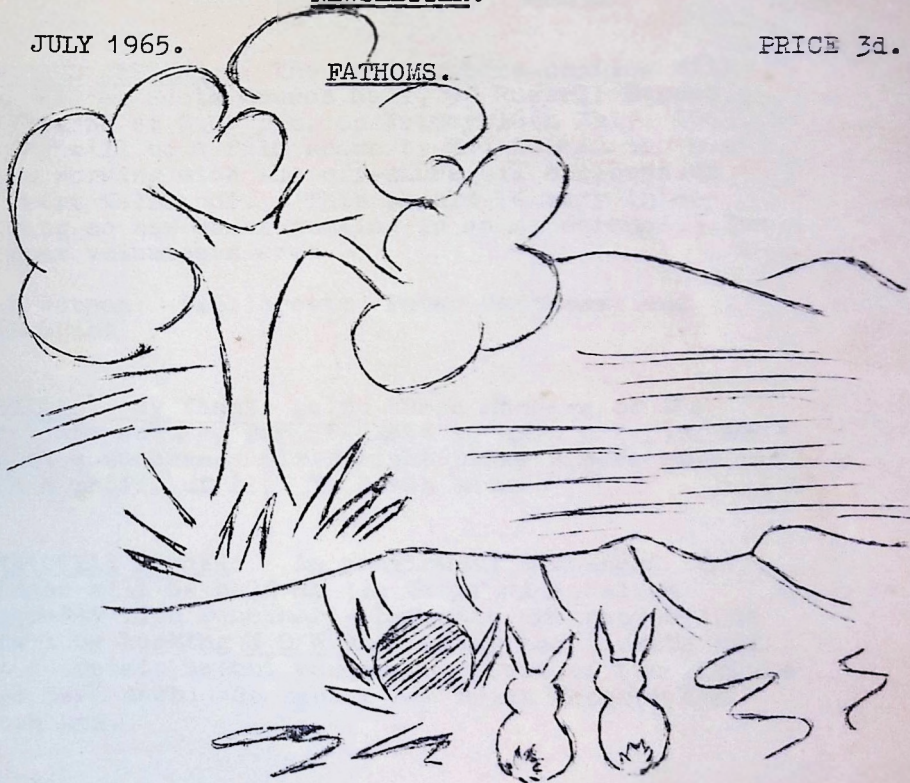


VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP
NEWSLETTER.

JULY 1965.

PRICE 3d.

FATHOMS.



Yes, a mystery trip:- Something to do with proving the validity of Alice in Wonderland , I think!

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VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Page 1.

MEMBERS MEETING: The next members meeting will be held at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, Melbourne at 8.00 p.m. on Friday 16th July, 1965. There will be a film shown by Ted McLean who has been working with the off-shore oil exploration at Port Welshpool. This should be very interesting so how about putting in an appearance. The supper volunteers are:

Jan Watson; Bill Brett; Peter Matthews; and Les Grant.

SOCIAL: My thanks go to those members of the Club who sold so many tickets to make our picture night a success. Sixty-eight tickets were sold and a profit of £11. 5. 0 was made.

CHRISTMAS DINNER: As previously announced the dinner will be held at the Stanford Hotel on Saturday 11th December. Deposits are required so start by booking N O W and paying the tickets off at a certain amount per month. Cost of the tickets are 39/6 each. So please see Brian Heather and book now.

RESEARCH DIVISION NOTES: The next meeting of the Research Division will be at Scot's Hall before the Members Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

Bring your specimens, your queries and your sandwiches with you. There will be a talk about something but the speaker doesn't know at present what the subject will be. Any ideas? If so ring Jan Watson, 337-9263.

Research Division (Cont.)

The Research Division is open to all club members. Visitors from outside the club are very welcome.

Early Life in the Seas.

It is not known with any certainty when the advent of life took place in the history of our planet. The earliest animals were simple, microscopic in size, and had no hard parts. A few fossil algae and jelly fish have been found in rocks dating from The Upper Proterozoic (proto=first, zoic = life) about 1000 million years ago. One of the richest areas in the world for these fossil impressions is in the Flinders Ranges. At this time the southern part of Australia was the site of a developing abyssal trench of immense proportions, similar to the Phillipines-Japan-Aleutians trench of today.

At the beginning of the Cambrian Period, 500 million years ago, in a world wide explosive evolutionary phase, animals in the seas of the globe began to develop hard outer coverings of calcareous, siliceous, or chitinous (horny material like finger nails etc.) material. There were no vertebrates; these groups did not develop until many millions of years later: the land was bare, and the only life to be found was in the seas.

At the opening of the Cambrian, all the major invertebrate phyla were in existence. Many of the animals then living, became extinct later. The story of this evolutionary phase can be traced from the fossils found in rocks of Cambrian age all over the world. The animals living on the sea bottom died either from natural causes or from predators, their skeletons were covered by sands and mud deposits, which later became consolidated to hard rock. At some far distant future age, the rocks enclosing the now fossilized skeletons would be lifted up above sea level by earth movements; the process of weathering would begin to operate, finally exposing the fossiliferous rock at the surface.

Among the extinct groups from the early history of life were the trilobites, a class of phylum Arthropoda, now at its zenith, at present having (cont. p.4.)

PAST OUTINGS.

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June 27th. Anglesea.

The weather was absolutely perfect for diving, but owing to a breakdown in arrangements for the fisherman's boat it was unavailable. But 5 divers went on to Airey's Inlet and had a good dive not far from the lighthouse. This area has plenty of growth and lots of small fish. At low tide there were depths of up to 20'. When the weather is right this is a good spot for new divers to get a taste of ocean diving.

FUTURE OUTINGS.

July 24-25. Weekend Mystery Trip.

Dare you come on another Mathews-Noonan mystery trip? The camping area for those going on Friday night is the one with the sign outside the butter factory after you pass through Camperdown. Follow the signs from this one. If you are coming Saturday morning meet at the clock tower in the centre of Camperdown at 10am. Dive Captain Peter. Mathews. 52.4652.

August 8th Cape Schanck.

Start limbering up those leg muscles. Meet at seaward side car park 11am. Low water 1.30pm. Distance 57mls. As the committee meeting is held on the Wednesday night before the members meeting a dive captain has not been selected.

August 22nd. Rye Back Beach.

Ever dived just west of "The Divide". Meet cnr. Nepean Highway and Canterbury Jetty Road (Bus stop 40) 9.30am/Low water 10.45 am. Distance 56 mls. Dive Captain for this outing will be in next newsletter.

Wrecks Around Phillip Island. ARTISAN.

On the night of 23rd April 1901 this boat was caught in a terrific southwesterly gale which left her a total wreck near Cape Patterson. The crew were rescued by members of the Newhaven Rocket Apparatus Corps who risked their lives on saving them. As a result those that took part in the rescue were awarded a Certificate of Merit by His Excellency, the State Governor, Sir George Sydenham Clarke.

modern representatives such as crabs,crayfish,and insects.The trilobites were as common as crabs in these early seas,and probably led much the same kind of existance.The trilobites did not grow to any great size,but another extinct relative,the Eurypterid,a marine version of the scorpion,grew to 15 feet long.

Some groups from these early (Palaeozoic)eras, became modified by natural selection,in their turn, evolving new forms of life,the descendants of which are the modern forms of life of today.Others barely survived the end of the Palaeozoic,about 150 million years ago,when another major evolutionary upheaval took place.These just managed to hang onto existance ,their descendants retreating to the quiet waters of the ocean deeps,from whence they are occasionally dredged,making scientific news.

A few forms have passed right down to the present from the Cambrian virtually unchanged.These developed a sedentary mode of existance very early,with low metabolic rates,and demanding very little of the environment.An example is Lingula,a brachiopod found in the mangrove swamps of Queensland,identical with fossils of Cambrian age.

In contrast,a lineage which evolves rapidly into specialized modes of active existance,reaches an evolutionary peak swiftly,and dies out just as rapidly.This should give us cause to ponder this evolutionary future of man.

Life Beneath the Sea.

At a lecture last year Commandant Cousteau spoke of his work "Mysterious Island" now positioned between Corsica and Monaco, a hydrometer like marine laboratory, anchored in deep water. The Diving Saucer which has proven itself now in the Red Sea, has made a 35mm film with its two cameras, one viewing through the divers porthole, the other on an external arm to give sequences from the divers viewpoint, and from that of an amazed fish. The saucer during his Continental Shelf '11 experiment in the Red Sea, discovered that the zone around 800 feet was rich in fish and crustaceans as the upper levels of the ocean.

Cousteau has achieved successfully each of his goals so far. He outlined his future projects, which, at first sight, fantastic, are really a logical progression from his present achievements.

Present Project. Divers staying in submarine house at 160 ft. with dailey dives to 325 ft.

This Year. A house will be built at 325 ft. and the occupants will work down to 650 ft.

1966/67. A house at 650 ft. will enable divers to the 1300 ft. mark.

Cousteau's projects may be compared with an inverse ascent of Mt. Everest. So far he has established base camp and camp 1. By acclimatisation and living for periods at great depths, old problems of decompression are non-existent.