

FATHOMS -



Well, if your a girl, how
 come you're not wearing
 the top Part?

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 per post as a periodical.

Mr. B. Heather,
 9 Jacka Street,
 WEST MACLEOD. VIC.

NEWSLETTER

I M P O R T A N T

THE DIVING FLAG

To the average diver the issue of the flag or flags under which we can be identified must be becoming to say the least a little confusing.

We will endeavour to clear this matter up so that you, the divers, will know what are the correct signals in Victorian waters.

1. NATO NO.4.

White diagonal cross on a red background.

This flag was legislated in Victoria in recent years and has been generally used by divers and we are all familiar with it.

2. INTERNATIONAL H over D. 2 Flags.

Flag H.

Flag D.

Due to international pressure being applied upon local Governments it has now become necessary to legislate for the introduction of this signal. These flags are used in code "flags" signals used by all shipping entering Australian waters.

The H over D signal is to be flown as two separate flags and cannot be joined together in such a way that there is no spacing between the signals. However, if the signal is affixed to a buoy or such float it may be of a stiff variety and joined on the one plate. This float should be designed so that the top is at least three feet above the water surface.

A campaign will be organized in the near future to publicize these flags.

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GENERAL MEETING

The next general meeting will be held on Friday the 19th March, 1965, at Scotts Church Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne at 8.00 p.m.

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N E W S L E T T E R

RESEARCH DIVISION NOTES:

The Research Division will have a new meeting place and time as from next meeting. This will be Scots Church Hall at 6.30 p.m. before the monthly Club meeting on the third Friday of each month. Members are invited to bring their pie and chips with them, but are requested not to eat noisily.

The Research Division is part of YOUR Club and has been formed for those who have more than just a passing interest in underwater scenery. If you are interested in fish, photography, rocks, shells, or everything in general, why don't you come along and let us know about it.

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THE UNDERWATER SEASCAPE:

Oceanography over the last ten years has entered in a new age of scientific discovery with the advent of sonar and seismic shooting for mapping the underwater terrain. While Sonar is familiar to divers as a method of depth finding, the latter technique, more recently developed, is an underwater adaptation of the generally used method of prospecting for oil, shock waves from carefully timed explosions are recorded as they pass into, and through, the rocks and sediments on the ocean floor. The varying rates of passage of the waves is used to determine the type and thickness of the sediments. Using these two methods, an overall picture of the topography of the ocean floor is gradually being built up by the several oceanographic expeditions permanently at sea.

Information so far has pieced together an ocean floor vastly more rugged than was formerly thought to exist, generally it is more rugged than the land. The thickness of sediments in the ocean basins has found to average three miles, compared to 25 miles of the continents. This discovery is being put to use in the drilling of the "MOHOLE". For a century the dream of geologists has been to probe into the basaltic layer or sial, which presumably underlies the outer crust, and on, into the mantle which overlies the central core of the earth. The Mohole will be drilled in an area where the water is relatively calm about 18,000' deep and drilling will continue to 36,000 below the surface of the water.

Another discovery ten years ago was the finding and mapping of a single connected mountain range 40,000 miles long, and passing through every ocean in the world. The peaks of this "Mid Ocean Ridge" are generally vastly higher than those on the land and just break the surface here and there as for instance the Galapagos Islands of the mid-Atlantic. Another interesting facet of the topography of the Ridge is the giant crack which runs through the middle of the range; is up to 30 miles wide and drops vertically to any depth in many places. This crack connects with the Great Rift Valley of Africa and is a major plane of weakness in the Earth's crust and the seat of many disastrous earthquakes.

N E W S L E T T E R

In contrast to the ranges are the deep clefts in the ocean floor, known as trenches. These are usually associated with arcuate chains of volcanic islands such as those to the north of Australia. They are long and narrow, and have a surprisingly uniform depth of about 35,000'. The trenches are thought to have originated as sags in weak parts of the crust. As the sag develops surrounding lands are pushed up to compensate for the stresses. Over long periods of time the trenches fill with sediments, loading becomes unbalanced equilibrium is upset and volcanic activity commences in the island arcs nearby. Finally, the whole complex is thrust above sea level. Victoria was the site of a similar series of events early in its geological history, about 400 million years ago.

Dredging in the abyssal zones has provided biologists with numerous "missing links"; invertebrate animals thought to be long extinct have been brought from the deeps alive, providing priceless information in the evolution of present day forms.

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HOW TO FIND THE CAMP AT

GREEN CAPE

The VSAG Easter Camp will be with the Gippsland Lakes Aquanauts at BATANGABEE inlet near the tip of Green Cape NSW. If you are going to attend be sure to take these directions and map with you, otherwise you will quite probably get lost.

The G.L.A. will have a compressor and boats at the camp site and good diving is assured. There is spring water at Batangabee but no other facilities. There bring ALL SUPPLIES needed for the weekend; its a long way to the nearest store at Kiah river! Fish and rabbits (also snakes and lizards) are very plentiful, so you won't starve. The last adequate places for supplies en route is either Cann River or Genoa.

At approx. 20 miles on the NSW side of the border turn off the Princes Highway at the sign "Green Cape Lighthouse 17 miles". The first mile of the track is part of the old highway. When you come to the end of this follow the sign to Green Cape light to the right. From here on there are signs nailed on trees pointing out diverging tracks to private properties (Dacenceys, Ediam, Stevens etc.) but keep on the main track to the lighthouse. At 15.3 miles from the turn off on a large tree on your left you will find a V.S.A.G. and G.L.A. sign pointing down a track. Follow this for about 3 miles to Batangabee. This track is rough and there are fallen trees, so go carefully at night. If you miss the turn to Batangabee you will end up at the lighthouse about two miles further on, so come back past the tree line and try again.

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NEWSLETTER

OUTINGS - PAST. Wilsons Promontory - Long Weekend.

Owing to the weather, diving conditions were not the best but some hardy hikers went to Oberon Bay to spear fish. Three bruised and battered spearfishermen were washed up on the beach very sorry for themselves about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after entering the water. On Sunday the group transferred to Walkerville where on the Monday the boat was taken out to try and locate a reef, but threatening weather prevented any serious diving.

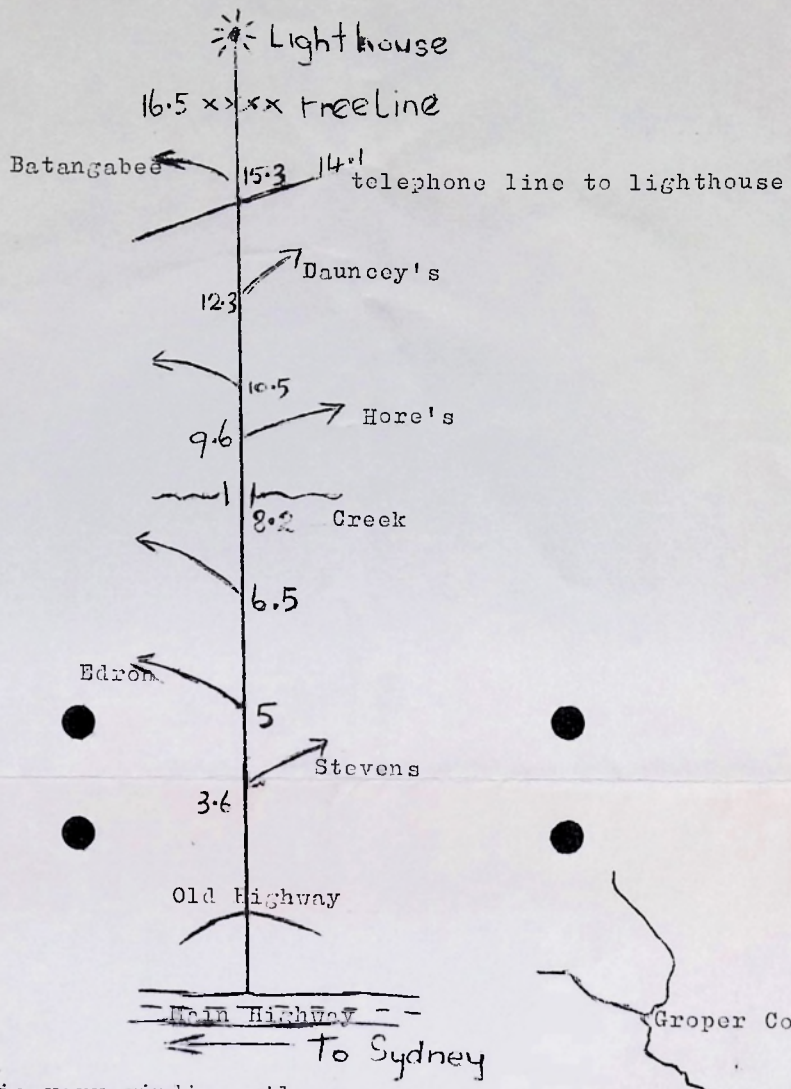
OUTINGS - FUTURE. Cape Schank - Sunday 21st March.

Meeting place is at Car Park near lighthouse. Take the Cape Schank Road from Rosebud and turn right at the signpost to Cape Schank.

SOCIAL- A Car trial is being held on Sunday 25th April and the charge is 10/- per car. The starting point will be announced in the next Newsletter but PLEASE make an effort to attend. This is a social event to help the Club funds as well as a get together. After the car trial is finished, we will adjourn to "Twin Lakes" for a barbeque lunch and to enjoy the facilities. Please contact me, on 45.5505 and let me know if you are coming and with how many friends (and their cars, we hope) so the necessary booking can be made. The car trial will not be hard no speed limits are to be broken and a prize will be given the winner. SO PLEASE BE IN IT TO HELP THE CLUB.

As the Twin Lakes charge is 5/- per person, bring along your wallets for this amount will have to be paid for separately.

ROAD MAP



NB: Road is very winding, miles read in from highway.
GREEN CAPE MAP

