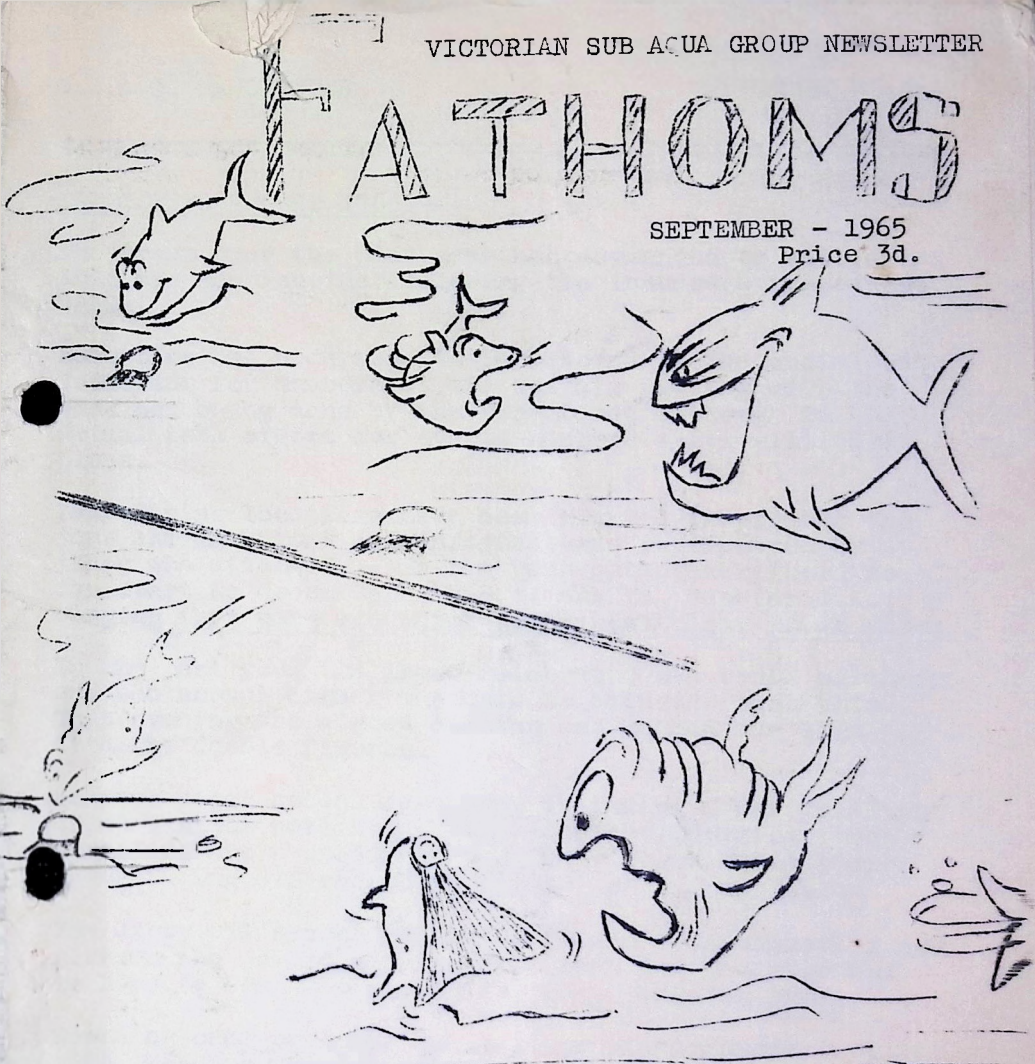


VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP NEWSLETTER

ATHOMS

SEPTEMBER - 1965
Price 3d.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1965 --

The Group over the past year has commenced to settle into the new routine following the incorporation of the Group.

More time has been able to be devoted to the social satisfaction for members at the monthly meeting with the work now being done by the Directors, although in the actual team effort for events members still will take place.

Many diving locations have been visited throughout the year and much work and enjoyment was experienced by those who attended. In the year outings were held as far apart as Green Caye, N.S.W. and Mt. Gambier S.A., ranging from warm sea water to crystal clear fresh water.

In the past year the Group celebrated its tenth birthday and the annual dinner was held to coincide with this. This evening was a good success and marked our life into the double figures.

Several other social functions including a car trial and theatre night were held. The people organizing these functions are a credit to the Group for without their ever tiring efforts these events are not possible.

The Group and myself had great pleasure in welcoming new members who joined our ranks through out the year and we hope to see them around for many years to come.

Training once again became part of the Groups activities with training being carried out at the Try Boys Pool in Hawksburn. This helped to stimulate further interest in the Groups activities.

PRESIDENTS REPORT 1965 - Cont'd.

In the next few months we expect to see the formation of the Senior Cadet Committee to organize and run activities for the Cadet Member. This Committee can help to provide a great stimulus for the Group and encourage the joining of many junior members.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee and members who assisted to carry out the Group's work over the past year. I hope that many more will join them this year as the old proverb will say "Many hands make light work".

M. COUSTLEY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 17th September 1965 at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, Melbourne at 8.00 p.m. Please be on time as the Members meeting will be held afterwards.

As supper volunteer's names were not taken at the last meeting could some members do a soul search and bring some supper in.

OUTINGS - PAST:

August 22. Five members turned up at Rye Back Beach (seven really, two got lost) and four hit the water at 11.00 a.m. in sunshine. A very rocky coastline that could stand another few trips from enthusiastic divers - and "rotton with Abs".

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PAST OUTINGS : Cont'd.

Visibility in rock pools was as good as 15' and the water temperature. B-r-r-r-r.

After about 1 hour of diving a bit of exploration around the coast -- then back to the cars, just before the rain.

(Shorting back along the highway, met up with 2 intrepid explorers who had explored every back road in the Rye, Hants and Portsea area and after a bit of mutual back scratching and bull-dust -- returned home.

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FUTURE OUTINGS.

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September 19th. London Bridge (Portsea Back Beach)
Meet at nearby car park 10.00 a.m. Low water 11 a.m.
Distance 60 miles.

October 3rd. Fisherman's Point (Morningson) Good reef
to 30' depth. Meet at car park 1 1/2 miles west of Morningson
10.00 a.m. Low water 2.p.m. Distance 35 miles.

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SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL
SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL SOCIAL

R e m e m b e r the Xmas dinner dance at the STANFORD HOTEL
P A Y N O W and dance later.

You will notice the cost more if you wait until Xmas.

INSTALMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

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FOR SALE

ONE ONLY - SUB MARINER DIVERS WATCH
R.C.L.E.X. TESTED TO 300'.
RECENTLY OVERHAULED.
PRICE ONLY £40.0.0

BARGAIN

HONORARY
SECRETARY

WANTED

-V-S-A-G-

H-E-L-P

SNOW

At the last meeting a suggestion was put forward to lease land at Mount Buller and erect a Ski Lodge. The idea appealed to quite a number of the members and as finance is available the scheme is quite possible.

It has already been proved that a ski lodge is a good source of income and the Club has been looking for a source for some time.

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RESEARCH DIVISION

So far, in these articles, we have seen how the earliest forms of life, the microscopic proto-cells somewhere between plant and animal, appeared in the seas. Later on, definite simple plants, the algae developed which were capable of photosynthesis - that is, extracting CO_2 out of the water and returning oxygen. This is thought to have had two profound effects - first the O_2 released became available to animal type cells which must have then evolved rapidly. Secondly as the seas became saturated with O_2 the excess diffused in the atmosphere which to date had probably contained very little gasses other than nitrogen. Finally, a layer of Ozone (O_3) formed above the atmosphere screening out a great deal of the lethal ultra violet rays from the sun.

Under these favourable conditions an explosive evolution of life took place in the seas about 500,000,000 years ago. All the major groups of invertebrate animals became rapidly established (the vertebrates did not develop until much later) Many primitive forms which have since become extinct; others have survived much the same to the present day, and we can still see them when diving along the local coastline.

Look for these invertebrate Phyla which have a history going back nearly 500,000,000 years. In future articles the various members will be described in more detail.

1. Single celled animals the Protozoa, microscopic to size of a pins head if you find the water dirty on a warm day, when it ought to be clear, you are sure to be swimming through a dilute soup of animals in which the protozoans figure largely.

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Look at some of the water through a high powered lens and you will be amazed at what you see.

2. The sponges - Porifera - very simple animals, just aggregates of cells but apparently well adapted to marine life because we see so many. Brightly coloured in sheltered spots. Very common in the Bay.

3. The corals, Anemones - Coelenterata - small polyps which build for themselves a skeleton of calcium carbonate. Some corals live in the bay of Mornington, but most favour the tropics.

4. The lace Corals - Bryozoa - are not corals at all. Delicate lace-like calcareous skeletons, found in quite waters under piers or deep places such as off Woolamai.

5. Worms - probably the most prolific life in the sea but rarely seen unless you go looking or go night diving when they are out. They dislike daylight.

6. The Sea Shells - Mollusca - in all their various forms. A point of interest is that the Octopus, Cuttlefish, Squid and Nautilus all belong to this Phylum. The Octopus is considered to be the most highly intelligent of all the invertebrate animals.

7. Sea Stars, Brittle Stars, Sea Urchins, Sea Cucumbers - ECHINODERMATA - are all prolific in local waters some of the Stars are brilliantly colored. Some divers will also have pointed comments about the penetrating power of the spines of the Sea Urchins into exposed fingers and ankles!