



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

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MEETINGS:

The last meeting was attended by twenty members.

Peter Matthews entertained the meeting with slides of his recent travels in New South Wales and the Victroian alps. Fancy taking your wife to the Den of Nargun for a honeymoon - must have been the most economical on record;

NEXT MEETING:

Will be at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, 19th August, at 8.0 P.M.

There will be a talk and film, with display of equipment by a Sky Diving Group. So roll up all you water divers to let the dry divers see we are interested in converting them.

OUTING PAST:

- July 17th. We did track down two divers who turned up to the Cerberus, but apparently, they never met, and as the weather was poor, the dive did not eventuate.
- July 31st. Frankstom Wreek. For the first time 1 in weeks we had a break in the weather and two boat loads of divers set put.

 After some discussion and manta boarding, the wreck was located in 40'. A good dive was had, and several bags of scallops collected. There were several cascalties among the watches, however, one lost, one filled with water. A rather expensive day on the whole!

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BRITISH SUB AQUA CLUB DIVING MANUAL

A new edition of this well known Hand-book has recently been published. The club has enquired about securing a number of copies for sale to members, but there may be some delay in delivery. More advice later to prospective buyers.

TRAINING TRAINING TRAINING

The Club has once more instituted a training program.

Training sessions will be at the City Baths on Saturdays. The cost for the whole course will be \$7. Anyone requiring training, or knowing prospective trainees, even if not club members, contact F.Coustley, 28.3910. Hurry, as the first course is already filled. Further courses later.

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FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE

Rolex Diver's Watch. Diver tested. Wonderful value

\$50.00

\$50.00

Contact Les Grant.

NEW ARRIVAL

News has been received of the arrival of yet another new member for the club on 5.7.66.
A new son for the McLean family,
Congratulations to Ted and Wife.

- We will definitely have to introduce a kinder-garten division into the club soon - Ed.

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CLUB PICTURE NIGHT.

There will be another Club picture night on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER ZND. at the CAPITOL

Film -- The Great Race.
For information and bookings, contact Tony Sierak

TOXIN FOR SEA WASP STINGS.

Although we divers in the southern part of the continent give no thought to dangers other than the possibility of sharks, the menace of the Sea Wasp is very real, and most feared by our counterparts in the far north,

Until recently, efforts to find an antidote to the almost invariably fatal stings of this close relative of the common jelly fish, have been frustrated by lack of a process to extract the very volatile toxin. It has now been finally isolated, and work will go ahead on developing an antidote.

It is debatable, however, just what good an antidedote will be, as death from the stings of this Cubomedusoid occurs within two or three minutes of being stung, and is apparently due to heart failure, whether caused by the intense pain or some other agent in the toxin is not known.

Any divers from the south should always ascertain from the locals if it is closed season for the Sea Wasp before they venture into far northern waters,

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LIBRARY BOOKS OUTSTANDING.

Members are reminded that library books borrowed are returnable at the following general meeting.

Retention beyond this period results in a fine being levied on the offending members, as provided in the rules and by-laws. The librarian has reported that four of the books in the library have been out for the ee months. Not only is this selfish, but offenders will be liable to a d fine

So, if you are one of the offending people, please return the books at the next meeting.

'DIVE' MAGAZINE.

Your Editors have been in contact with the Editor of the above Magazine. This is a very worthwhile little New Zealand publication on diving, and divers doings, but is being strangled for want of a wider circulation.

Your Editors can thoroughly recommend it, and planar rank it above American 'Skindiver', but below 'Triton' in standard - mainly because it is not being turned out on a profit basis.

Subscription is - # 1.50 for six issues.

Contact Fathons Editors if you would like to subscribe.

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BEWARE! UNAUTHORIZED SALVAGE.

It is reported that one member had \$6 removed from

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a wallet inadvertently left in the kitchen for a few minutes at the last meeting. No blame can possibly accrue on our own members, as the kitchen is open to other users of the I hall, and ayone coming in from the street.

So, be careful about valuables.

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SEA SCIENCE SECTION

CRAYFISH, continued, extraol From West Aust. Dept Fisheries Bulletin.

Twenty years ago the average catch was 10 dozen size crays in one dozen pots. Today the catch, due to overfishing is down to five dozen from twenty pots. The total catch soared from half a million ponds in 1944 to 22 million pounds in 1962, resulting in a considerable depletion of stocks. Since then catches have declined drastically.

In order to study the industry, the CSIRO has been engaged for ten years on crayfish research. It has been found very difficult to suitably mark live crays for study in the open sea. Iny marks on the shell are lost at the next moult, even the skin over the eyes being lost at this time.

Where short term studies are being made, a loop of plastic wire can be twisted around the base of the feelers. More lasting identification can be made by punching holes in the tail of the cray. These marks gradually disappear only after several moults.

Another method of marking with limited success only, is the insertion of plastic darts into the muscle between the second and third tail segments. (cont'd Page 9)

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CLUB ELECTIONS

Members are reminded that the elections of Directors are due at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the third Friday, 16th September 1966.

Under the constitution, three of the present Directors must stand down, and new members must be elected to replace them, if they do not desire to stand for re-election.

As the future of the Group depends on the Directors, all members, in choosing their candidate, should carefully consider the attributes of those prepared to make themselves available for election.

Only full members are entitled to vote, and they must be financial as at the time of the elections. Subscriptions are due from 1stJuly 1966 to 16th September 1966.Nominees for Directorship must also be full financial members, and have had at least twelve month's membership.

Duly completed nomination forms, inserted in this newsletter, must be returned to the Secretary, not later than Friday 3rd September 1966. Each nomination form must be signed by the nominee, and a proposer and seconder, who must be full members entitled to vote.

Now, just don't forget it - give the matter thought and make a nomination.

It's YOUR Club. Help to keep it running, and share the work. Consider nominating for Directorship.

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This method injuries many, and retards growth in others.

Other chrrent methods of marking are injection of dyes, and sewing strips of plastic ribbon through various flexible joints.

The rate of growth of young crays during the year depends on how many times they moult. Measurement of tail punched specimens has indicated that the young crays increase the length of their carapace by about one fifth of an inch per moult, so that with five moults per year the increase in length is one inch. Adults grow much more slowly, and moult only once or twice per year.

Moulting occurs in the warmer months, and ceases in the winter

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Your Editors have not had any reports of the Snow trip, Are the participants still up there?

Neither have we had any reports on the Footscary YMCA Display effort. Did all these drown?

What with all these possible casualties, it will b be a sadly depleted club!

Do you realise that 15 man hours goes in to the composition, typing and mailing of each Fathoms issue? This burden of time becomes almost insupportable for your Editors, if notes, news, and articles are not forthcoming from other member ers.

VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. NOMINATION FORM.
We hereby nominate
for the position of Director of the Victorian
Sub Aqua Group for the 1966 Annual Election,
subject to the Articles of Association.
SIGNED:
DATE:
SECONDED
DATE:
SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE.
DATE
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