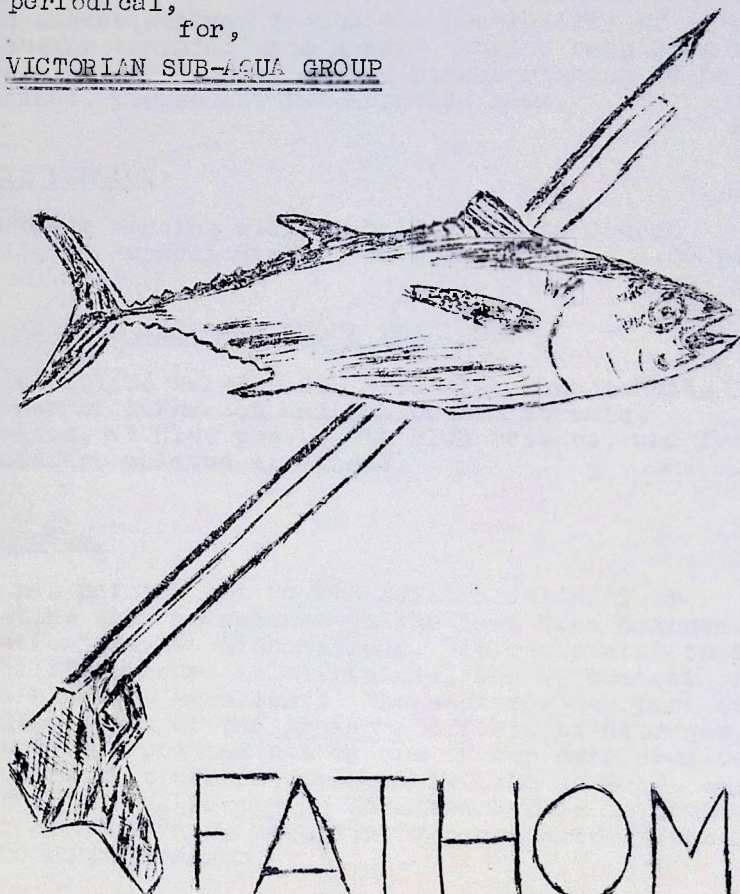


JULY, 1966 ISSUE

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for,

VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP



FATHOMS

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MEETINGS:

The last meeting was attended by twenty-six members.

Discussion centred around the possibility of resuming training once more. Anyone requiring training, or knowing of any person wishing to be trained, please let Pat Reynolds know.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held at Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, on 15th July, at 8.00 pm.

UNDERWATER RESEARCH GROUP MEETING:

This will be held at St. Michael's Church Hall, corner of McPherson and McIlwraith Streets, Carlton, at 8.00 p.m. All club members, and friends are welcome to attend.

Addendum.

It was pointed out to the Editors at the last meeting that a sentence in the last "Sea Science Section" may be misconstrued. It was stated that "Whilst pressure is maintained, the N₂ content of the blood is harmless". The sentence was part of a discussion of the pressure effects of Nitrogen, but it was pointed out by one of our more erudite members that others, presumably like himself, may infer that N₂ is always harmless. This is obviously not the case, when Nitrogen narcosis is taken into consideration.

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FUTURE OUTINGS:

- July 17th - "Cerberus", Dive Captain - Ron Addison. Phone - 93.6120.
- Time - Meet 10 a.m. at Black Rock Pier. Plenty of fun in and out the holes; bring your wet suit glue with you!
- July 31st - Frankston area, Wooley's Reef. Small boats. Lifejackets must be worn.
- Time - Meet at Frankston Marine Centre on the creek, at 10 a.m.

Dive captain, Jan Watson. Phone - 357.9263. Please make arrangements with dive captain so that boat booking can be made by July 24th at the latest.

PAST OUTINGS

July 3rd - Mornington. The swell caused by westerly winds made a dive around Mornington area impossible. After an enjoyable picnic lunch and football match, folks all departed to Flinders.

Bill Gray's new boat was launched with rides for all.

Although it had previously been decided that it was too cold for a dive, the enthusiastic swim 'wet suit and all' by a young seven year old shamed other members into taking to the water. A very good day.

BOAT OWNERS - AHOY!

Scallops, mussels, and professional divers will be on the run from now on. The club seems to be moving into the upper income bracket, or perhaps, we have a lot of divers who put diving before anything else.

We now have four boat owners, and another hopeful, with a trailer at least. Three Norsemen with out-boards, and one ocean going fishing boat. From now on we should expect to have some very good diving.

PAINTING BEE:

Painting at Dot Drury's is reported to be near completion. Owners of various pieces of equipment seem to be having difficulty in sorting out their property. Has ANYONE got a four inch paint brush which doesn't belong to them?

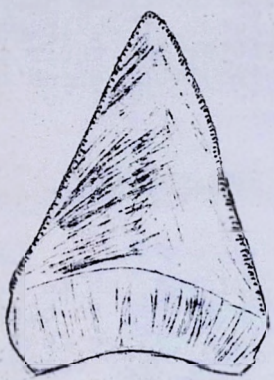
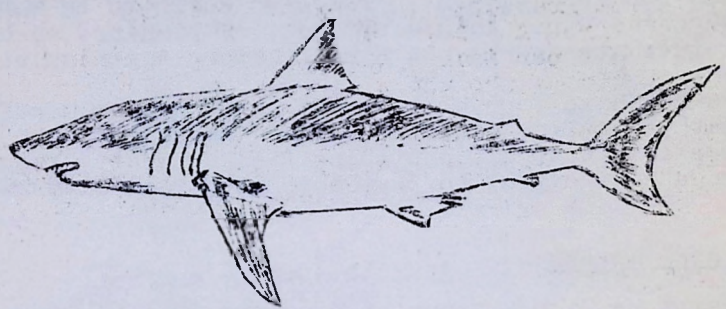
HINTS FOR DIVERS:SHARK RECOGNITIONPart 1. ** WHITE POINTER **

Variously known as the White Pointer, White Death, or Great White Shark. Body coloured grey to bluish grey above, white below. Length to about 36 feet today. Fossil teeth indicate that the recently extinct members would measure more than eighty feet in length - (wow!). A fast swimming and most voracious species, particularly dangerous to man. (Scott, Marine and Freshwater Fishes of South Australia, 1962).

It is also stated that recognition of this shark is made easy by the large triangular shaped teeth, the edges of which are coarsely serrated.

It is suggested that any diver doubtful as to species could carry out a dental inspection on the spot. (Ed.)

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Slightly enlarged tooth of White Pointer. This species can, on a large set of jaws, have as many as 200 teeth!

Not wanting to scare anyone but, - stomach contents taken from these sharks include a 4ft Mako Shark, a large Newfoundland dog, a 40 lb fish, an entire human corpse, and a ship's scraper!!

July 1966.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE:

The club needs your money, so please pay Ron Addison as soon as possible.

DO NOT FORGET

The WOOTSCRAY Y.M.C.A. 'Hobbies and Craft Display' 14th to 16th July. If you can spare any time to help, contact Frank Coustley, 28.3910.

SNOW TRIP. 22nd to 24th July.

There are still four vacancies, if you want to join the party, contact Frank Coustley immediately.

HANDBOOK INSERTS

These have been sent out to all listed members. If you have not received yours, contact the Secretary at the next meeting.

DIVING SYMPOSIUM. OCTOBER 28th to 30th, 1966

The Underwater Explorers Club is organising a Symposium on diving, which will convene at 7.30 p.m. Friday October 28th. The weekend will be given to lectures and eating (apparently). Apply to the Secretary for a form if you wish to attend. Numbers are limited, so make up your mind as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The main business at the last meeting of the committee was a discussion of numbers required to form a quorum. Through various circumstances, mostly
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beyond individual control, several committee meetings have had to lapse, due to lack of a quorum, which, at present is set at six. After discussion it was decided to lower the number to five.

Over the last few months there has been a certain amount of discussion on the publication of the newsletter. The present set-up is unwieldy, and difficult to organise.

The Editors and Secretary have investigated the cost of having the monthly issue printed on the offset process. This would be approximately \$20.00 per month. This cost would have to be offset with advertisements. Investigations are proceeding.

SEA SCIENCE SECTION

THE CRAYFISH AND THE CRAYFISHING INDUSTRY

Australia's biggest fishery is declining. More fishermen are using more pots, and more effort to catch fewer crayfish.

There is no possibility of improving the crayfishing industry unless considerable research is carried out by marine scientists, in properly equipped laboratories, and with the full co-operation of the fishing industry. In recent years, much information has been collected by fisheries scientists but much more needs to be done.

SPAWNING: The female crayfish matures at three to four years of age, although some take longer. At her last moult before breeding, groups of long fine hairs appear on the swimmerettes on the under-surface of each tail segment. Mating takes place in the winter, the male depositing a sperm packet, or 'tar spot' on the undersurface of the female, between her last pair of legs. Almost equal numbers of males and females are present, but it is not known if one male serves more than one female

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Eggs are laid during the spring, the actual time probably varying with water temperature. More than 1000 eggs may be laid at a time by one female, who, as far as we know, spawns every year. The eggs pass through an opening at the base of the third pair of legs. At the same time, the action of the last pair of legs scraping the 'tar spot', releases the sperm, which, then fertilises the eggs as they pass back to stick on the fine hairs of the swimmerettes.

Following fertilisation, the eggs are carried for about ten weeks before the tiny larvae (developing crayfish) are released in the latter part of summer. After release, the larvae rise to the surface, and are carried out to sea, probably by surface currents.

Considerable numbers of larvae have been taken as far as 500 miles offshore, and indications are, that many, from the western Australian region, (at least where studies have been carried out) are lost by being swept into tropical waters near Java.

Although some of the last larval stages (crayfish may pass through up to eleven, about which little is yet known) have been taken as they return shorewards to settle on the continental shelf, we still do not know the path by which they return.

At about a year old, and transparent, the young crayfish return to the coast and settle to the bottom. They spend the next two or three years on the coastal reefs, growing steadily at each moult. At about three or four years old they reach adolescence and many moult into the familiar 'white stage', move out to deeper water, where they gradually darken again.

From here on, maturity is reached, breeding commences and the whole cycle starts again.

Growth of mature crayfish is generally much slower, although the 'jumbo' size male may not be especially
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old. It could be that his growth rate did not slow down like the others. Females, however, never grow as large as the males.

- extract from bulletin by West Australian Dept. of Fisheries, Perth.

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

STOP PRESS

We hear a whisper that a film on something to do with diving will be shown at the next meeting.

CHEERS!

It has been decided to abandon the system of supper 'volunteers' in favour of biscuits and coffee or tea. If anyone can remind Mother, wife, sister or girl-friend to cut a few sandwiches, these will always be appreciated as additional fare.

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See you all at Scots Church Hall
at 8.00 pm on the 15th July.

Ed.