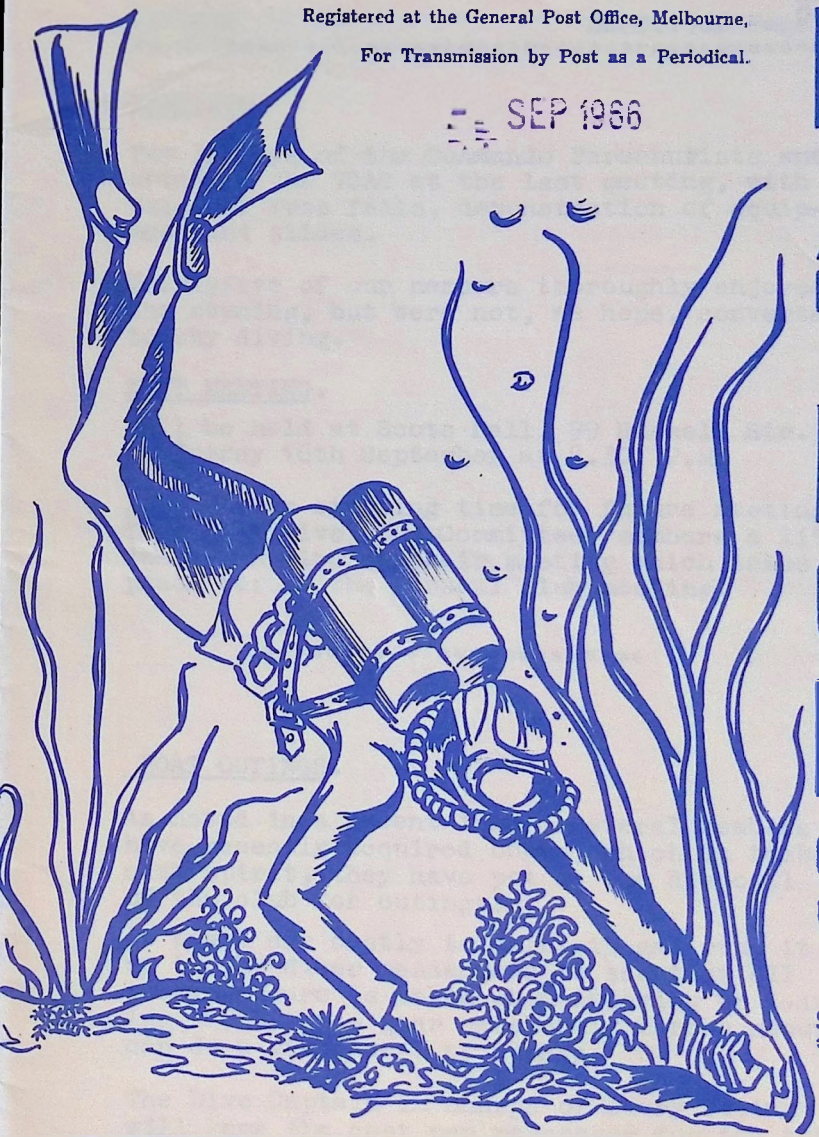


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SEP 1966



FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

MEETINGS

Two members of the Commando Parachutists entertained the VSAG at the last meeting, with tales of free falls, demonstration of equipment, and slides.

Thirtyfive of our members thoroughly enjoyed the evening, but were not, we hope, converted to sky diving.

NEXT MEETING.

Will be held at Scots Hall, 99 Russell Str., on Friday 16th September at 8.30. P.M.

Note. Later starting time for future meetings This will give your Committee members a little longer to wind up their meeting which takes place before the general club meeting.

BOAT OUTINGS.

As noted in a recent issue, several members have recently acquired boats, which in the best club spirit, they have put at the disposal of the club for outings.

As boats are costly to maintain and run, it is up to the diver passengers to see that all possible care is taken when entering or leaving the water - gear carelessly thrown about can do a great deal of damage.

The Dive Captain in charge of every outing will know the cost per passenger for the trip so be honest, and pay up YOUR DONATION.

Remember - the club is entering on a golden era of diving with the increase in boat numbers - but boats will go off the outings list if the owners find themselves out of pocket.

PAST OUTINGS.

RICKETTS POINT. 28.8.66.

Nine members in two boats headed out at 11.30 A.M. to a point about a mile offshore with intention of reaping a harvest of scallops, mussels, and oysters. The weather was satisfactory, some sunshine, and a glassy surface, although the water was a little murky near the surface. The manta board was towed, using Ron Addison for bait. Water was about 60 feet deep, with sand and muddy bottom. About a quarter mile offshore a very attractive reef was explored, with caves, canyons, and grottos decorated with colourful marine growth. All divers had an hour below, with exception of Geoff Evans who seemed to be down all the time, no shivers. Nett profit on the trip, was 6 scallops, 4 empty oysters, and one small leather jacket stabbed. Ashore, the Gray, Bricker, and Reynolds families set up Porta-gas and tables. The dive ended on a real old get together, eat and talk session, recalling the old atmosphere of previous club dives.

FUTURE OUTINGS.

INDENTED HEAD. Dive Captain. Ron Addison.

(This dive will be in the past before the Newsletter arrives, so we relegate it to past outings for the next issue)

MT. MARTHE Dive Captain. P. Robertson. Meet car park near Balcombe Creek. 11.00.A.M.

PICTURE NIGHTS

Another picture night has been arranged.

BORN FREE. Friday, 11th November.
Tickets available from Brian Heather,
Price - \$1.50.

Late January. Group bookings will be made for

WEIRD MOB

So don't see it now, wait for the club night
Be with your mates for a laugh, and help the
club finances at the same time.

OUR NEW COVER

Behind this new departure in presentation
for the newsletter, lies a lot of hard
committee work and thought.

For a number of years, the Newsletter has grown
gradually from an outings list to its present
booklet form. During this time it was the lot
of the Secretary to compose, type, and print
the Newsletter.

Peter Matthews, we believe, way back in the
early days, thought up the name 'Fathoms'
which, unfortunately, lapsed during the period
when the Newsletter was thinner than now.

With increasing size, the Secretary found it
increasingly difficult to cope with the work
and two Editors were appointed to carry on.
Brian and Lorna Heather have the heartfelt
thanks of the club for their years of effort.

From now on, the stencils will be cut by the
Editors, and roneoed commercially.

Our new cover was designed by Lorraine
Addison, and we have had twelve month's

supply printed off.

Your Committee feels that the expense is well worth it, as the front cover of 'Fathoms' gives the production a lift, giving us a Newsletter with which no other Victorian diving club publication can compare.

TRAINING.

Frank Coustley reports that there are vacancies in the training program, due to a few drop-outs. Do you know of anyone wanting to be trained? This may be the last opportunity to join up prospective trainees.

BRITISH SUBAQUA CLUB DIVING MANUAL.

The club is going to order a bulk supply of the BSAC Diving Manual.

No self respecting diver should be without this authoritative textbook on diving. All those who have the old copy have put their names down for the new edition. Those who are not familiar with it are strongly advised to order a copy. Value for your money!

Cost will be \$3.00 per copy.

Name and money at next meeting, if you don't want to miss out. Or contact Brian Heather immediately.

FOR SALE

Two single 38 cu.ft. cylinders, with valves. In full test. Cold Galvanized.

Price. \$24. the lot.

Apply. Brian Heather.

PORTSEA QUARANTINE STATION.

Please note that the dive scheduled for this area on October 9th has been cancelled. Our application to the army for permission to enter the prohibited area has been rejected, as apparently, have similar applications from all other diving clubs.

The venue for this dive has been changed to Portsea Pier, same date and time.

LIBRARY BOOKS.

After our burst in last month's 'Fathoms', there are still library books outstanding. We are now regretfully, forced to publish the names of the offenders, in the hope that their memories will be jogged.

Eric Rea -	Underwater Handbook
Bernie O'Callaghan -	Handbook for Skindivers
Ted McGoldrick	- The Living Sea
Brian Lovell	- Expédition into the Unknown
	- Marine Salvage Operations.

ONE OF OUR OLDER MEMBERS.

Ian Beeson lobbed back in Melbourne for a few days recently - to organize his forthcoming marriage, in early November, to a local girl. All members will wish Ian and future wife every happiness

* *****

POWER HEADS.

It has been ascertained from the Chief Secretary's Department that things may be moving in the next few weeks on legalizing of some form of underwater powerhead.

BIG DEATH SALVAGE.

We print this as a moral, and a warning. A very sad story! (Ed.)

About five weeks ago, a gentleman at a certain Westernport anchorage, testing a prototype outboard had misfortune to drop same, which leapt off the transom in the middle of a tight U turn. In usual landlubber style, he knew just where - "within twenty yards of here - I think" An enthusiastic club member on the spot endeavoured to help by diving for same - in enthusiasm, forgot lead weights, rocketed to surface, losing mask on the way. Engine owner not impressed, and stated would employ salvage diver. This he did for eight hours, at \$10 per hour - result nil. Some weeks later, club member, and buddy, decided to retrieve both engine and shattered prestige. Boat loaded with buoys, weights, lungs, and manta board was trailered down to said Westernport anchorage, The day was overcast, and the water had the clarity of green velvet. Undaunted, the members spent thirty minutes preparing buoys and gear, set sail for approx location, and marked out an area of channel forty by two hundred yards. First diver took the manta board, and was towed for two legs of the search area through water varying from three feet of black mud to forty feet white sandy gutters, at speeds designed to strip the skin off an orange. On the commencement of the third run, the boat driver swung wide, and outside search area, to bring board rider back on course, and completed half the run without rider, who had just spotted the engine and peeled off and bouyed same. Fortyfive minutes preparation, five minutes search, and engine located and retrieved! Exultant divers raced back to shore to immerse motor in fresh water. Rang owner, advising of good news, already mentally spending fee on new diving gear, etc., Even delivered motor to owner on his own doorstep. Owner suitably grateful, stating divers would receive

reward, figure not stated.

Yes, you've guessed it - sadder and wiser divers now, but no further word from owner

Moral - work out your deal before undertaking salvage work, otherwise, you'll only finish up out of pocket and a little wiser to the world!

* * * * *

UNDERWATER RESEARCH GROUP OUTING.

For those who are not on the circulation list of the U.R.G., and may be interested, there is to be a dive at Flinders Jetty, Sunday 18th Sept. at 2.P.M. This dive is primarily designed for those interested in marine life to take a critical look at the growth to be found on and about the jetty area, and there will be opportunity to bring up specimens and discuss them with 'Research Captains' who will be in attendance for that specific purpose.

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SEA SCIENCE SECTION

BIOLOGICAL ZONES IN THE SEA.

All of us have noticed at some time in our diving careers, marked changes as we dive deeper in any one locality, and even more marked differences in the fauna and flora of an area such as the N.E.W. coastline, compared to say, Liptrap, or Portland ocean areas.

These changes are due to biological zonation of the oceans.

There are two major types of zonation - vertical, and geographical.

VERTICAL ZONATION

This can be traced at any given place from the marine life to be found there. All marine algae, and fauna, occupy what is termed their particular 'biological niche' i.e. a small part of the environment to which that particular form, and no other, is adapted. All animals in the one locality live in a state of equilibrium, of either predation on other forms, live and let live, or parasitism of one sort or another, so that the whole eco-system remains fairly stationary for the given area.

This can be easily traced along the shore lines, where well above high tide mark, you will find the tiny littorinid molluscs. Between tide marks- i.e. highest high, and lowest low, there is a series of 20 zones, each well marked by the fauna, particularly mollusca and algae. These zones have been well studied over the last century, being accessible to the land based collector. Surprisingly, though, new things still come to light here with further studies. The zonation of life below low water mark is not nearly so well known; in fact, most discoveries, all brought to light by SCUBA diving in the last few years are revolutionizing knowledge of this zone. Probably, on every dive you make, you have observed, unwittingly, at least one new feature of underwater zonation which has yet to be scientifically described!

