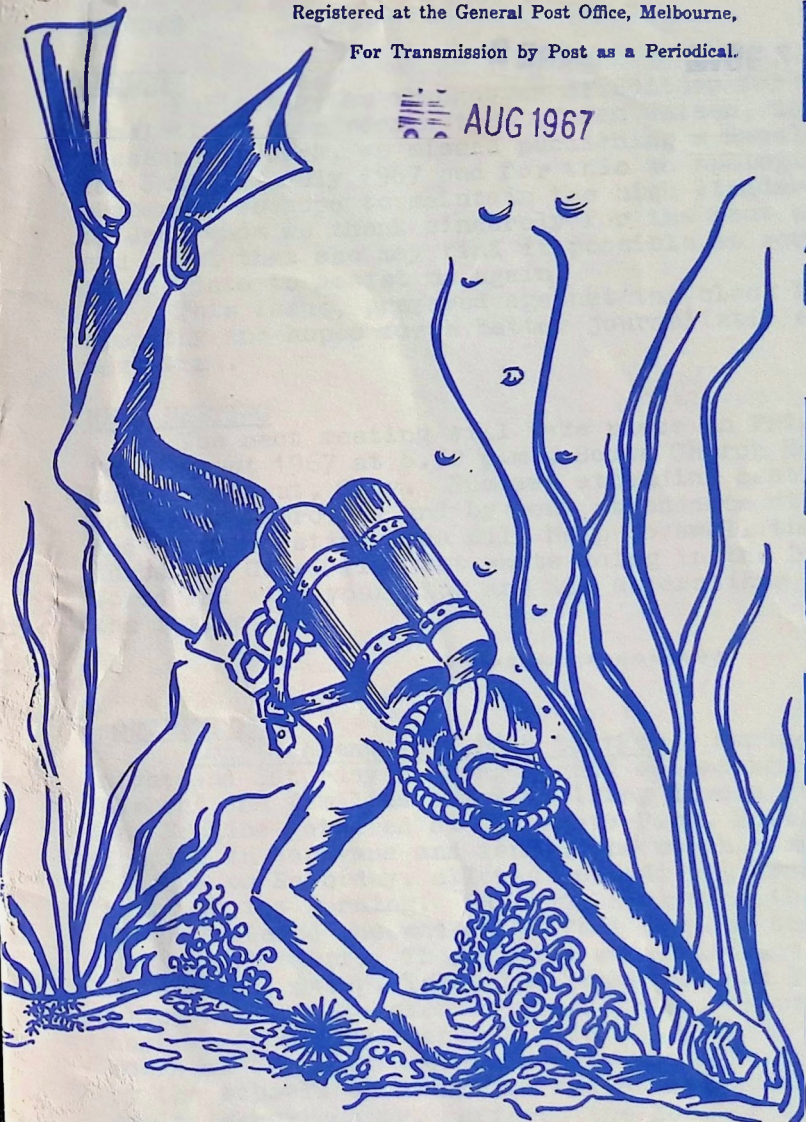


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AUG 1967

FATHOMS



VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

APOLOGY

Following the changeover of Editors for the Newsletter after resignation of Jan Watson, due to pressure of work, we missed publishing a Newsletter for June and July 1967 and for this we apologize to members. We hope to maintain the high standard set by Jan, whom we thank sincerely for the past efforts and trust that she may find it possible at some future date to assist us again.

This issue, prepared against the clock begs for sympathy and hopes for a better journalistic effort next time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Friday 18th August 1967 at 8.30 p.m., Scots Church Hall, Russell Street, City. Numbers attending meetings have been improving and by your attendance at this and future meetings you will help to swell the numbers. Come, find out what's doing in the Diving World and with your Club and its aspirations for the future.

OUTINGS PAST

Long Weekend June 10th to 12th - During Friday night and Saturday morning a good collection of members and families and 2 visiting divers from the Sea Urchins gathered at Centenary Park, Portland. Camping in caravans and tents, the weather most clement on Saturday, allowed good diving from the boats in the morning. Saturday afternoon the 8 divers entered the water, 50 feet deep of the end of the oil wharf. The fishing was excellent, Butterfish, Sweep, Tasmanian Trumpeter and Rock Ling amongst the most numerous types taken, in small numbers from large schools. To sit quietly on the rocks at the bottom one was astounded and enchanted by the schools of Trumpeter and Salmon which came, dwelt in curiosity, suffered the loss of some of

their number and moved on, only to be followed by another school minutes later.

Sunday a heavy fog descended over the Portland area, and prevented a proposed boat trip to Danger Island off the coast. Some of the Group headed for Mt. Gambier and the Sink Holes. They all arrived safely and, as usual at these crystal clear lakes, had wonderful diving. They found that 5 miles out of Portland the fog dissipated.

Monday saw all the divers back in the water off the oil pier for a feed of fish to take home. As on Saturday the fish made their appearance and the fishing was so good the divers did not leave the water until 1.30 p.m., with a goodly supply of fish for home consumption.

Once again Portland showed itself to be one of the best diving spots for the Group, accommodation wise, good deep clear water, and companionship.

A certainty for a return trip.

July 2nd 1967 - Indented Head

Six divers, families and friends turned up and although the weather forecast was for showers, generally the day was dry and sunny. The morning saw six divers waddle into the glass flat clear water towing floats beneath which dangled bags containing salvage tool - hacksaws, pinchbars, hammers etc. One hour and half later they returned for lunch, heavy laden with loot, ripped from the wrecks lying 100yds offshore in 12ft of water. After a pleasant lunch in sunshine and a change of tanks, the two solo salvors competed against the iniquitous "Corporation" (three buddies who share their gains). On the day the individuals fared better, about 50lbs brass without sharing against 58lbs (three ways). Returns from the outing made it a free trip for all concerned so don't laugh at our apparent feeble efforts.

July 16th → Mornington

This time the weather lived up to the forecast, cold, gale force winds lashed the pier sending spume and spray 30ft into the air. The 14 or 15 scallopboats

moored insdie the pier were jostled about like corks and the sea itself was the colour of weak mustard - no diving - the 8 would-be divers enjoyed sandwiches and coffee behind the windscreens of their cars.

July 29th to 30th

This outing, scheduled for Wilsons Promontory, due to possible doubtful weather was changed, by popular requests to Indented Head again on the Sunday. Boy, what a wonderful sunny day, ten divers turned up and again the water was clear and calm. Some 256lb of heavy brass was lifted by a few, and converted into \$ \$ \$. A fine brass port-hole was salvaged and after its sale for brass, several people offered good prices for it as a souvenir. Again the dive paid for itself - not much left now.

Outings Future

August 13th - Crawfish Rock - now changed to San Remo - boat trip and deep dive. Meet at Fishing Co-op San Remo 10.00 a.m. Dive Captain Brian Heather - 45 5505.

August 26th to 27th - Weekend at Apollo Bay - this dive has been changed to dive on the "ARUNDEL" at Barwon Heads. Meet Barwon Bridge car park, Barwon Heads at 11.00 a.m.

DINNER DANCE

We have been unable to book the "Hunters Lodge" for this years dinner danœ. Whilst we are seeking other venues for this gala occasion, the assistance of members who may be able to suggest a suitable location is sought. If you have any ideas please contact Brian Heather.

FUTURE OUTING - September 10th - Wreck of the "Hurricane" Rosebud. - good wreck and plenty of scallops - a boat trip so bring life jackets. Meet Rosebud Pier 11.00 a.m.

SHARK GUNS OR UNDERWATER POWER HEADS

The Victorian Police Department, Firearms Division is now accepting for consideration applications for Permits to purchase Shark Guns. Anyone desirous of purchasing same should therefore apply to the Police Dept. Remember unlawful possession of one of these weapons constitutes a breach of the Firearms Act and carries a severe penalty.

SPECIAL NOTE

For those members interested in preserving their marine specimens we hear that you can now buy a kit for \$6.00 plus moulds for preserving in clear plastic blocks. If you are interested contact Resin and Fibre Glass Services, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

DIVING TRAINING

Diving training is still continuing at the City Baths, Saturday evenings from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., under the guidance of experienced divers from the Group. If you or your friends are interested in learning to dive in the pleasant heated pool then contact one of the following -

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Pat Reynolds | (232 5358) |
| Bill Gray | (232 7220) |
| Frank Coustley | (288 3910) |

Fee is \$8.00 for 4 week course, sea dive, and 2 lectures.

All gear is provided.

UNDERWATER RESEARCH GROUP

This Group of more seriously inclined divers and associates have continued to attract large numbers to its meetings, the last of which was at 8 p.m. on Tuesday the 8th August at St. Michaels Hall, Carlton, corner of McPhersons and McIlwraith Streets.

The Group has the approval of and will receive the co-operation of the Museum in undertaking a comprehensive survey over 4 years of the marine faunas in their natural environment in the north-west corner of Western Port Bay - the Hastings area. In this way it will be possible to determine the effect of any pollution in this area following the anticipated industrialization of this region. It is of interest to note that this is possibly one of the few remaining land lock bays around the Australian Coast close to large cities which will retain their marine faunas in their natural state, and consequently to the serious minded diver or scientist offer unique opportunities. Anyone genuinely interested in helping ~~km~~ in this survey would be most welcome.

The Wreck of the Batavia (1629) West Australian Coast on the Abrolhos Islands off Geraldton.

A number of members, at the invitation of Ansett A.N.A. attended a film and lecture on this wreck at the Shell Theatre on Wednesday 5th July last. Lecture was given by Mr Jack Sue a former member of Australia's "Z" force during the war and an original member of the group which first dived on the Batavia. This lecture was followed by excellent film of the wreck site and salvaged artifacts. Also an excellent film, by courtesy of Shell Oil Company on "Off Shore Oil Drilling" was shown followed by an excellent supper (Free).

A book well worth reading by all persons interested in early Australian History, and in particular divers to boot, is Hugh Edwards publication "The Islands of Angry Ghosts". It graphically tells the tragic true story of the wreck of the Batavia, the sufferings and privations of her survivors, their rescue and the punishment of the murderous mutineers, who slaughtered many of the survivors and plundered the gold from the wreck. It also reads like a detective story in regard to the seeking, some 300 years by modern skin divers, of the secret resting place of this famous ship and the final success of their endeavours.

At \$4.60 a copy it should be in every Australian History loving divers library.

Costeau's film "WORLD WITHOUT SUN" will be shown
at the National Museum Theatre on -

FRIDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1967

at 8 p.m.

by the U. R. G.

If you want to come, contact Jan Watson, 337-9263.

Donation 40c
