

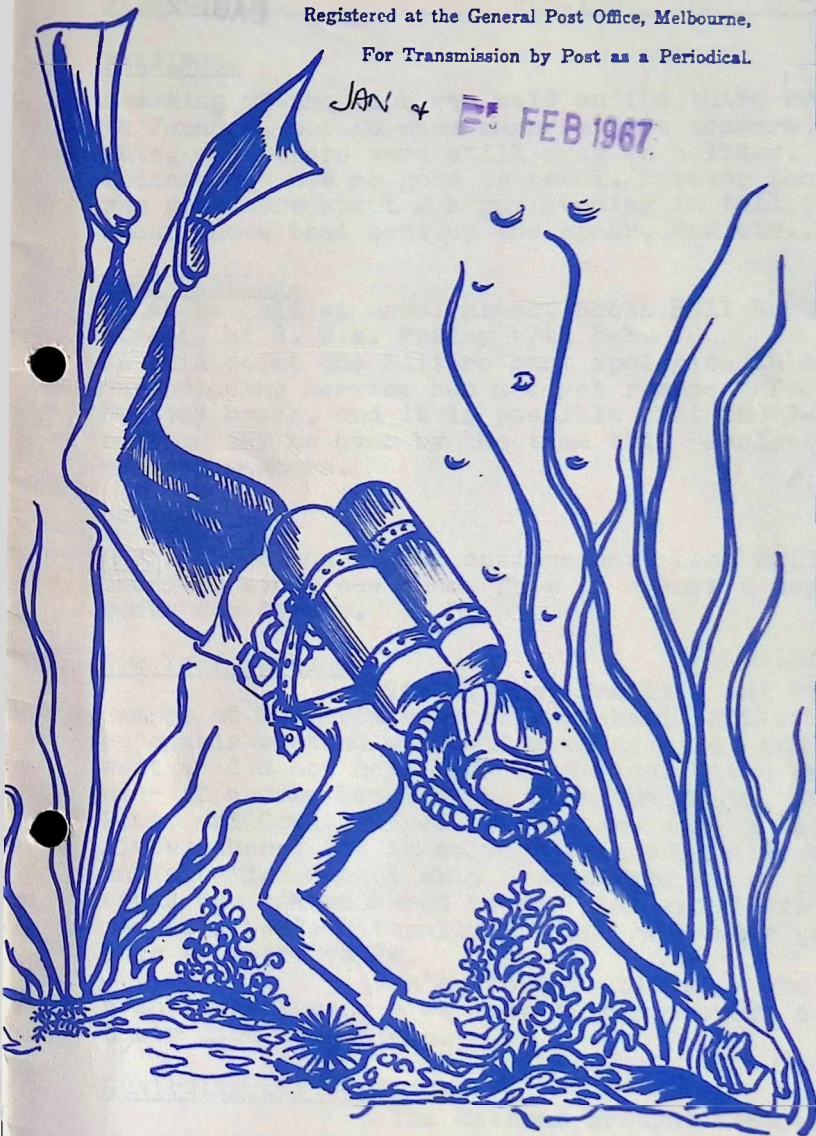
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JAN 4 FEB 1967

# FATHOMS



## VICTORIAN SUB-AQUA GROUP

MEETINGS.

A meeting of the club was held on the third Friday in January, but as some members were unaware of this, and others were still away on holiday, attendance was not as good as usual. However those who got there spent a happy evening in tall tales about those that bent up the spear, and etc....

NEXT MEETING.

Is to be held at usual place, Scots Hall Russell Street, at 8. P.M. Friday 17th Feb. At this point the Editors must apologise in advance. Our printing service has not yet resumed after the holiday break, and it is possible that the Feb. meeting may be over by the time this Newsletter reaches members.

OUTINGS.

PAST. Two unofficial outings have been held at Newhaven since new year. This is always a popular venue for divers.

New Year Weekend.

Six divers, families and friends camped at Newhaven over this weekend. Whilst a most enjoyable weekend was held camping-wise, the weather did not help much wind-wise. Dives were made of course beneath the Newhaven jetty, San Remo, and Cowes. Three of the more enterprising divers shared \$52 in salvage on lead and iron - an imitation rocket ship from nearby merry go round was commandeered by new year revellers for use as a boat. Naturally it sank and owner got the boys to retrieve it.

Ron's cooking abilities are apparently improving - we hear he can prepare a very tasty dish of abalone.

Australia Day Weekend.

The Watsons brought their boat down from Warneet, and two aluminium 13 fts, and outboards were also trailed down. We had the boats



gear and enthusiasm, and the intention was a deep dive off Woolamai at the fabulous pinnacles. However winds were again unfavourable, and no boat trips there were possible. Once again the local jetties were flogged, and the Rhyll wrech is yet a few pounds of scrap lighter.

Camping facilities at Newhaven are now very good, with hot and cold showers, clean wash rooms etc, and power for caravans. The Ranger knows us well, and is favourably disposed toward us even to the extent of allotting a camp area so that we could pitch tents close together away from the dust of the roads.

At this dive, several new members presented for C Grade Certificates, and passed. Their first dive as new club members was not as hoped, passed on the Pinnacles, but under the San Remo Bridge. We wish them well in their association with our club; we know it will be a happy one.

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ONE LESS DIVER?

Lew Clarke, one of the Group's most talented and eligible bachelors (John composed this, not me - Jan) has succumbed to the charm of a young West Australian lady, and is contemplating marriage in the near future. It could not have happened to a nicer guy, and all Lew's diving friends wish him and his future wife every happiness. How about bringing her in to a meeting to introduce us, Lew?

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OUTINGS LIST FOR 1967

The new list compiled by John Noonan and Peter Matthews is inserted in this Newsletter Take it out and file in your handbook for reference during the year

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QUEENSLAND TRIP

---- Brian Heather

..... and a Happy New Year to all you white skinned Melbournian VSAG members!

You've guessed it! We've not long arrived back in Melbourne Town from a glorious sun filled trip for three weeks up north.

We had the caravan packed and left the Friday before Christmas. Some few miles from home it became apparent that the caravan was incorrectly balanced, as we bucked all over the road at speeds in excess of thirty mph. Several inspections and an hour and a half later we realized the cause - eight dozen cans of Tarax were packed under the bed at the back of van (we are a very thirsty family) After a reshuffle and lunch we really got going (Some cans lighter? - Ed)

Albury at 5.00pm and we all stopped off for a swim in the local pool, then went on to Gundagai for the night.

Christmas Eve was our big day. At Gundagai we struck trouble with the wiring between car and van, so we visited the pool while car and van visited local garage. Noon saw us on our way again, and beginning to be doubtful if we would make it to Gladstone and the Brickers.

Travelled till 1.30am as far as Singleton, both taking turns at driving and dozing. Stopped at Mussellbrook for Christmas Lunch and stayed on till late afternoon.

From there it was Tamworth, then several other towns over the border to Queensland and Toowoomba, then the Pacific Highway through Gympie and Bundaberg. Brett was stung by a bee, but not learning his lesson on the way picked one up on the beach and was stung again.

Finally, Gladstone. We arrived at Rob and Barbies at 5 pm, rather surprised to find Rob home from work, which up there finishes at 4 pm

My first impression of Gladstone can't be printed. To put it mildly, I was horrified, but the company and the atmosphere soon overcame the unpicturesque town

Month	Day	Event	Time
June	4	Williamstown	
	10 - 12	Portland	LW 6.03 am 7.03 am. 0.5 ft Centenary Camping Park.
	LWE		
	18	Torquay - 'Victoria Tower'	LW 12.30 pm 2.2 ft.
JULY	2	Indented Head	LW 11.30 am 2.2 ft.
	16	Mornington	Oysters LW 2.30 pm 2.2ft
	29 -30	Wilson's Prom	LW 11.30 am 1.8 ft
	WFE		
August	13	Crawfish Rock	Beat trip. LW 12noon. Meet Warneet 9.30am. <u>Life jackets</u>
	26 -27	'Casino'	Apollo Bay LW 9.10 am, 9.45am 1.4 and 1,5 ft
	WFE		
September	10	Dromana	Scallops. LW 12.30 pm 1.4 ft
	24	Ricketts Point	Mussels and scallops. LW 12.30 pm 1.4 ft
October	1	Anonyma Shoal	Boat trip. LW 4.50 pm 2.3 ft
	15	Drum Rock	LW 1.30 pm 2.3 ft
	29	Shag Rock Mt Martha	LW 3.0 pm 1.8 ft
November	12	Gape Schenk	LW 11.30 am 1.8 ft
	25 -26	Walhalla	Gold Dive
	WFE		
December	2	Club Dinner	
	10	Rye Back Beach	LW 11.00am 1.3 ft.



VICTORIAN SUB AQUA GROUP. OUTINGS LIST 1967

February	5	Cape Schank	Low water. 11.30 am. Relative height 0.8 ft. Barbeque.
	19	Portsea London Bridge	LW. 11.30am. 0.6ft Barbeque
March	5	Anglesea - Point Roadnight & Ingoldsby wreck	LW 12 noon. 0.5 ft. Meet shopping centre car-park near hotel 10.00am.
	11 - 13	Cape Liptrap	Camp at Walkerville north LW 6.30 am, to 8.00 am
	19	Drum rock	Diamond Bay, Sorrento. Meet car Highway and St. Paul's Rd 10 am LW 10.15 am 0.4 ft.
	24 - 27	To be decided	Suggested Bitangabee, Mt. Gambier, Newhaven.
April	2	Devil's Punch-Bowl	Meet Flinders crossroads at 9.00 am. LW 9.30 am 0.3ft
	15 - 16	Moonlight Head	See map to be published in NWSltr. LW 8.45am, 9.15 am. 0.5 ft 0.4 ft.
	30	Cape Woolamai	Boat Trip. Deep Dive. See NWSltr for arrangements.
May	14	Lake Purrumbet	See NWSltr for arrangements
	28	'Cerberus'	Black Rock. LW 11.40 am. Meet jetty 10.30 am

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Rob and Barb were planning to go north and suggested we leave the van behind, and Motel to Proserpine, and thence to Hayman, South Molle, etc. So off we all went.

Warning! Anyone taking on the Bruce Highway, have windscreen guards fitted. The side of the not more than fifteen foot wide road is littered with broken windscreens.

Up there, John Frazer, a terrific fellow, and ex-Melbournite, took us out in his 30 foot boat, treating us to a wonderful day's outing. Considering we only met him by chance, we were all very lucky. John's boat will be available for charter, and will have a three stage compressor with 100' hookah hose units. With him we went to the south end of Long Island to Paradise Bay, but because of the northwesterly blowing everything was murky. We did see a turtle and some nice coral. From there we went to Dent Passage, where Rob and I dived. Rob got to 70', and I gave up at 50', as the current was terrific and the water dirty.

Meanwhile wives and families had not been idle. Fishing and swimming were the order of the day, and Brett and Rodney did quite well. We heard afterward that something really big nearly pulled Rodney off into the water, but one of the fellows grabbed him in time.

The next day was a trip to Hayman Island on the Murrima II. This was great and Rob and I dived off the pier in approx 20' to see the very colourful coral.

Travelling is very hot and tiresome in Queensland, and we drank that eight dozen cans in seven days, and that doesn't include all the stop-offs at service stations. But it is still worth it. It's a wonderful State, even though hot, dusty, and when it rains it pours, and somehow a little of our hearts have been left up there in the Australia over Capricorn.

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Rob and Barb are both well, and the children are as brown as berries. We wonder if we will ever see them south again - who would want to give up a 75 - 85 degree climate for a brrrrr 32 to 108 degree year round?.

Also the diving. Rob has collected lovely corals and been busy with the camera taking fish portraits on the Fitzroy Reef out to sea from Gladstone.

In closing. If you get the opportunity to go north then take it - you won't regret it.

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### Bitangabee Trip

Well the Watson family didn't go in for spectacular distances like the Heathers, but we did enjoy our now annual trip to Green Cape. Found the roads (?) considerably washed out this time, evidence of heavy winter rains, which, incidentally continued on into our summer holiday. So damp was it that we were picking literally ten buckets of mushrooms, a welcome addition to the diet.

Arrived Christmas Day, just a week after the wreck of the 'Robin Julie'. This was a tuna boat an eight footer, which mysteriously, and conveniently piled up inside the Bay, in ten feet of water!

The scenes of activity had to be seen to be believed. I think every diver from here to Sydney had converged on the spot, and were at it hammer and tongs for the Christmas weekend. One club (we won't mention names) got away with a truck load of loot.

All this became terribly hilarious when the ex-owner arrived and demanded his remains back!



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One enterprising diver spent a whole week on the end of his hookah happily sawing the stainless steel tail shaft up to take away, and raised it just in time to meet ex-owner face to face, and have it confiscated.

What with the large volumes of water coming down the creeks, and the diesel oil seeping out of the wreck, diving was far from good in the Bay. Outside it was quite good, although the weather could have been better.

Fish were plentiful as usual, particularly groper of which Alf speared six, all about fifteen pounds, and could have taken a few bigger still.

The wildlife on land was a problem this time, the wet winter causing a proliferation of insects so we had to carefully de-tick ourselves, watch out for snakes, and particularly nasty funnel-web spiders which seemed to have the idea we were trespassing on their land and treated us accordingly.

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